

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE ANN ARBOR HURON HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DE- PARTMENT

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Ann Arbor Huron High School Music Department for being named as a Grammy Award Signature School. Their hard work and commitment to excellence has made this achievement possible and it brings me great pleasure to have the opportunity to share this day with them.

As a former member of the Ann Arbor School Board, I know the special significance of such an achievement for a high school music program and I look forward to future accomplishments from the department.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL EDWARD OWSLEY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to honor a very special constituent on his day of retirement. Colonel Edward Owsley, a native of Missouri, is retiring after 10 years on the Rolla City Council. I have known Colonel Ed for twenty years and he has been a great inspiration to me as well as the city of Rolla. Colonel Ed has been a true leader for the City of Rolla, always searching for new opportunities and challenges. He has served on the service academy review board for both Bill and me, and has served as chairman of this group for the last 10 years. He has done a remarkable job in helping me select the finest individuals to serve our country in the service academies. Ed's love of the military has made him a tremendous resource for Rolla and the surrounding area in his official duties as liaison to Fort Leonard Wood and the U.S. Army. He is over 80 years old, yet he continues to remain on the cutting edge of knowledge about his community and Fort Leonard Wood.

At the age of 18, Colonel Owsley joined Company I, 138th Infantry, Missouri National Guard and was First Sergeant of the Company when it was called to active duty on December 23, 1940. He served overseas during World War II as Second Lieutenant of Infantry on various troop and staff assignments in the Far East Campaigns. After he returned from the war, he served at Headquarters, Seventh Corps Area, Omaha, Nebraska as Executive for U.S. Army Recruiting for a five state area. He was promoted in 1948 to Lt. Colonel and assigned to the Missouri Military District as Deputy for recruiting, and Field Representative to the Selective Service System. He served at

Fort Leonard Wood as the Assistant Chief of Staff during the Korean build-up and was promoted to Colonel. After serving in the Pentagon, Colonel Ed returned to Fort Leonard Wood for his final years of service.

In addition to serving his country, this dedicated man has served Rolla, Missouri in so many ways, since he retired the U.S. Army in 1966. After serving as the Executive Director for the Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce from 1967 to 1989, he helped form the Rolla Community Development Corporation. This non-profit organization aims at providing jobs and industrial development opportunities for the area. Col. Owsley still serves the RCDC as treasurer. While the City Council will miss Col. Ed, I doubt he is truly retiring. In his first 85-plus years, he has brought so much to those who have crossed his path. With his outgoing spirit and enthusiasm for life, I am sure he will continue to serve his community as long as he is able.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HON- OREES OF THE 2000 ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the honorees of the 2000 Annual Brotherhood Awards Dinner. The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) has selected Alan J. Apfelbaum, James Jackson and Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan for their outstanding contributions to the promotion of understanding and respect among all races and religions.

These three exceptional individuals have demonstrated a dedication to community that transcends our simple desire to belong. They not only promote tolerance, but embrace diversity, and that is why they are being honored by NCCJ this year; they understand and exemplify American ideals—the very ideals that make our nation great.

With tremendous compassion and selfless determination Alan Apfelbaum, James Jackson, and Dr. Patricia McGeehan have shown the degree of compassion and guidance that ensures a better future for their communities, a better future for America's communities.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 2000 Annual Brotherhood Awards Dinner Honorees as well—they are truly great community leaders.

CHINESE INTENTIONS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, recently the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) released an

unclassified report concerning Chinese espionage activities against the United States. The report is very insightful and I therefore urge every Member to read the report.

Additionally, I have received the CIA's classified briefing concerning Chinese espionage operations. Needless to say, the briefing was more detailed about the activities of our "most favored" trading partner. The classified briefing not only solidified my opinion that we need to do more to dissuade the Chinese government from acting against our country, but gave me at least thirteen more reasons to continue advancing my opinion toward developing a national missile defense capability for the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I have sought clarity to the unclassified report and the unaddressed issues of the report. Those points, are outlined in a letter addressed to CIA Director George Tenet, which I hereby submit for the RECORD.

April 27, 2000.

GEORGE TENET, Director,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Attention: Public Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. TENET: Please consider my concerns on the joint CIA/FBI Report to Congress on Chinese Espionage Activities Against the United States, unclassified version. The report omits pertinent items that would otherwise clarify the issue of Communist Chinese espionage, propaganda, and penetration of U.S. political affairs, government, and armed forces. Rather than leading the reader to an understanding of the threat and purpose behind Communist China's acts of espionage against the United States, the report fails to interrelate Communist China's intelligence operations, military build up, and political opportunism.

One of the chief roles of intelligence is to provide information to a country engaged in or about to engage in war. In view of the remarkable penetration by the Communist Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) of U.S. military capabilities, the wholesale theft of advanced U.S. technology by the PLA, and the burgeoning interference of Communist Chinese agents with U.S. political affairs, it must be stated that Communist China is engaged in undeclared war against the United States. There is no other purpose for the magnitude and focus of Communist Chinese espionage against the United States.

One of the classical uses of espionage and networks of spies, agents, saboteurs, and "friends" is to provide a "fifth column" attacking the will and sensibility of an opponent. Adolph Hitler demonstrated the effectiveness of "fifth column" elements in his overthrow of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Such is the activity of Communist China inside the United States today. Indeed, classical military strategy would call for directed efforts at breaking the will of an opponent, regardless of the means. The report would do well to note this.

The driving force and purpose behind Communist China's espionage against the United States has been stated by Communist China. In 1999 Communist China's Defense Minister, General Chi Haotian, stated that war with the United States "is inevitable." The doctrine of the Communist Chinese PLA plans

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for war against the United States as a threat to Communist Chinese hegemony in the Far East and a threat to the oppressive nature of Communist China's regime which rules by brutality and the repression of human freedom. The report would do well to note this, and is striking for its paucity of references and omission of Communist Chinese thinking.

One of the lessons learned by Communist China from the 1991 Persian Gulf War was the effectiveness of advanced military technology. Following the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Communist China began to aggressively acquire Western and U.S. military technology wholesale, whether by theft, trade, or espionage, noted in the report. "Chinese attempts to obtain U.S. military and military-related technology—reflecting recognition of the overwhelming technological superiority enjoyed by the Western alliance in the Gulf War and Kosovo—have increased since the early 1990s."

What would have been helpful in such a report, however, is an explanation of the relationship between Communist China espionage and intelligence operations, Communist China's efforts to "ascend the technology ladder," and the modernization program of the Communist Chinese PLA focused on the acquisition of a U.S.-type military replete with a blue water Navy and air power projection capabilities, and the rapid, aggressive acquisition and development of advanced ballistic missile technology, nuclear weapons, and manned space operations. The driving force behind Communist China's economic modernization is the PLA, seeking to acquire advanced military weapons. The report should note this, and could prove helpful by including a description of the PLA's military modernization program, a link with DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) may be appropriate on this point.

Intelligence is a key adjunct to successful military operations. Noting the acquisition by Communist China of a global space tracking network, including its ship-based satellite tracking systems, the agreement of the Republic of Kiribati to let Communist China use the island of Tarawa for satellite tracking would be helpful. The report would also be helpful in providing information on Communist Chinese plans to establishing an intelligence gathering station in Cuba, and in the Bahamas, both close to home, and impinging upon our space program based at Cape Canaveral. An update would also be appropriate on Communist Chinese activity in Panama, which affects U.S. economic interests in the Panama Canal, and in the control of drug trafficking and regional stability.

The report would provide valuable information by noting specific examples and activities of Communist Chinese companies and "front operations" such as Cosco, which serve as conduits for Communist Chinese espionage. In particular, Communist Chinese activity in California should be revealed, especially in regard to their purchase or leasing of commercial property for trade (ports, warehouses, and airports). The magnitude of the Communist Chinese penetration of the United States needs clear explanation even beyond the classified version of the report which I have read. It needs to be understood. The contents of the report need to be expanded and brought to light so that the American people can see and understand the magnitude, comprehensiveness, and diffuseness of Communist Chinese intelligence operations against the U.S.

On March 9, The Washington Times said of the report that "professional military and civilian intelligence officers play a small part in the China's spying efforts" (Bill Gertz, "China Boosts Spy Presence in U.S., CIA, FBI Report"). This needs further explanation.

In addition, the United States has adopted a policy of giving away advanced military training and tactics to the PLA. These military contacts need to be delineated and described to Congress and the American people. The American people need to understand the closeness of the PLA in grasping and being able to combat U.S. military doctrine and tactics.

The report would also provide valuable background information describing Communist China's acquisition of new territory in Southeast Asia: Communist China's forcible takeover of the Parcel Islands in 1974; Communist China's forcible expulsion of the Philippines from Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands in 1995; Communist China's propaganda against Taiwan, and its territorial claims for the Natuna Island oil and gas reserves owned by Indonesia are aspects of Communist Chinese belligerence that beg for description. It is also worth noting the military weakness of the many nations in Southeast Asia compared to Communist China.

I am encouraged that the report describes Communist Chinese intelligence operations against the United States. I am anxious to hear of recommendations from the CIA and FBI on the steps Congress should take to combat and defeat Communist China's intelligence, espionage, and propaganda campaign against the United States.

I look forward to your response. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CONGRATULATES TIMOTHY COPELAND, EWING KIWANIS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Copeland of Ewing Township, who is being honored by the Ewing Kiwanis Club as the Police Officer of the Year on Tuesday, May 16, 2000.

This award is bestowed upon him by his peers in recognition of his constant willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

In March of 1993, Officer Copeland began his employment with the Ewing Police Department and graduated from the Trenton Police Academy Basic Training Course in August of 1993.

After being sworn into office, Officer Copeland was assigned to the Patrol Division where he rose to become a Field Training Officer. Officer Copeland is also a mentor for the D.A.R.E. student education program. He has excelled with many letters of commendation for his outstanding work as an officer.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Timothy Copeland is a great example for Central New Jersey. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing him.

MICHAEL R. BRENTANO

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend Michael R. Brentano, a

court reporter from Georgia, on his appointment this July as the 92nd President of the National Court Reporters Association. The NCRA, a professional organization founded in 1899, represents over 38,000 court reporters from around the world.

For those of us who know Mike, this announcement is welcome, but hardly surprising. Throughout his professional life, he has consistently created new opportunities for himself, his employees, his customers, his profession, and our judicial system.

Following his graduation from Emory University in Atlanta, Mike trained to become a court reporter, and began working for Judge Harold Murphy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. A few years later, he became a freelance reporter for Brentano Reporters, where he serves as Vice President and General Manager today.

Mike and his wife, Judy, have played an invaluable role in pioneering new reporting technologies and methods, that have led their profession into the 21st century. Under the leadership of Mike, Judy, and others, many court reporters have moved beyond their traditional role as recorders of events, and become all-purpose support systems for litigation and other public events. For example, he has become an expert in real-time reporting, advanced litigation support, and data retrieval.

Mike's service to his community goes far beyond the walls of the courtroom. He has testified in the Legislature about his profession, and has supported the State Bar of Georgia pro bono reporting program.

Based on his many past achievements, and his great prospects for more successes in the future, I join court reporters around America in saluting Mike on his appointment as President of the National Court Reporters Association.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week I pay tribute to some of the outstanding teachers that serve in the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts.

In Belmont, Massachusetts, several teachers have received local and national accolades for their outstanding dedication to their jobs: Janice Rosenberg was selected to join the National Science Foundation's Teachers Experiencing Antarctica and the Arctic; Kimberley Mayer received a Teacher Award in the 2000 Space Settlement Design Contest sponsored by the NASA Research Center; and Eleanor Palais was honored by the Belmont School Committee for the success of 15 students in B.C. Calculus, all of whom received a perfect score of 5 on the AP Exam.

In Somerville, Massachusetts, two teachers, John O'Keefe and Barbara Marder, were recognized by the Department of Education for completing the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification; and Alice Comack was recently honored by the Massachusetts Teachers Association for her work in the area of human rights.

Since becoming a Member, I have visited schools all over my district. In Watertown,

Massachusetts, I toured the Cuniff Elementary School and viewed how they are wiring their school and upgrading their computers. In Boston, Massachusetts, I visited the Winship Elementary School and discussed the Constitution with fifth graders. I am always amazed at the warm greeting I receive from students, and from teachers. For them, it does not matter who the visitor is, but rather that someone cares and recognizes the hard work they do.

Mr. Speaker, almost 5,000 teachers in over 176 schools educate approximately 86,000 students in the 8th district; far too many teachers to mention everyone by name. However, I would like to take a moment to thank all the teachers in Belmont, Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Chelsea and Watertown for tirelessly giving of themselves to educate our future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to debate the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, I hope each Member of Congress will reflect upon the valuable contributions of teachers in their respective districts, and work to pass legislation that helps our nation's teachers provide the best possible education for our children.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today is equal pay day. We should recognize women and pay them equally. They are our grandmothers, mothers, wives, colleagues, teachers, caregivers, citizens and leaders.

Women's role in the home and work place is critical. That's why I am pleased to co-sponsor H.R. 541, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and H.R. 1271, the Fair Pay Act. And I am pleased to sponsor the 8th annual women's event on August 4th at Cal Sate University San Bernardino.

Many working women lack the basic benefits they need to care for their families. So we have kids with illnesses going to school; kids who have not eaten breakfast; and kids hanging out on the street because their mothers work two or three jobs.

We need laws to improve child care and after-school care. On the job, working women are looking for higher pay, better benefits and most of all the "3-R's": respect, recognition and reward for a job well done. Working women want a stronger voice—not only in decisions on the job but in the policy making area.

Women deserve our support.

TRIBUTE TO THE 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY SCHOOL HOUSE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of H. Con. Res. 310—which was passed by the House last week—to Commend the Charter School Movement, I rise to pay tribute to a

new PUBLIC charter high school in Salem, Oregon, the heart of my district.

The 21st Century Community Schoolhouse is a small high school where no student is anonymous. With a curriculum that integrates ALL subjects, it is founded on the belief that students' work must be relevant to them, incorporate high academic standards, and include extensive community service.

These students, who formerly have been alienated because of whatever differences make them special, will now become connected to each other, to their teachers, and to adult mentors in the community. I believe that we cannot afford to let one high school student slip through the cracks in the public school system, and the 21st Century Community Schoolhouse provides a model for school districts across the country to follow.

This resolution represents a national commemoration of the charter school movement and the contribution charter schools have made to improving the nation's public school system. But we are not only here to applaud charter schools today—this resolution will continue to express our appreciation of charter schools by designating a National Charter Schools Week.

Often times, we forget to celebrate the parts of our education system which are working. The 21st Century Community Schoolhouse in my district works and I wish to celebrate them.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY—RECOGNIZING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LOCAL EDUCATORS

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Teacher's Appreciation Day, and today I personally recognize some of the remarkable educators who have had a profound affect on the lives of children throughout my district. I have had the opportunity to visit over 200 classrooms in my district since my election to Congress, and I can tell you the teachers I recognize today are just a small sampling of the innovative teaching, academic leadership, energy, and enthusiasm I have seen from educators in so many of the schools in my Southwest Washington district.

For educators, teaching at a small, rural, and often underfunded school poses particularly difficult challenges. In the case of 5th and 6th grade teacher Timothy Davis, he has worked tirelessly for sixteen years at Mount Pleasant School in Washougal to overcome the obstacles faced by the school district. During two years when the school district faced financial difficulties and could not afford to keep a full staff, Mr. Davis stepped forward to serve in a dual role of teacher, principal, and superintendent. Tim Davis never puts in less than 12 hours a day, devoting his free time to applying for grants and creating a challenging curriculum for his students. Mr. Davis is praised by his peers for his patience, consideration, and good judgment.

Students at Centralia High School are truly lucky to have an enthusiastic science teacher by the name of Henri Weeks. After graduating from Centralia High School, Mr. Weeks re-

turned in 1989 to take the job of his former science teacher. Since that time, Henri Weeks has worked tirelessly to make science fun and interesting for his students. In his spare time, Mr. Weeks has taken part in summer internships at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and has incorporated DNA testing in the schools science lab projects. His students are currently involved in the human genome project (DNA mapping) which is being coordinated by the University of Washington. Henri Weeks is described by his peers a selfless educator that cares a great deal about inspiring his students to achieve greatness.

At South Bend High School, Mr. Steve Lazelle is credited for being an outstanding teacher who is in high demand as a presenter on his unique Aquaculture curriculum locally, regionally, and nationally. In 1990, the district was chosen as one of six test sites in the nation to pilot an aquaculture curriculum provided by the National Council for Agricultural Education. Mr. Lazelle is one of the original teaching team members to infuse aquaculture into Agricultural education beginning in a one-room facility with ten students. Today, thanks to Steve's leadership, the program is located at the Port of Willapa Harbor's Port Dock facility with Steve as the only instructor and manager whose enrollment topped out at 83 students. The program raises and sells tilapia fish to the markets of Seattle, and works with the local gill-netters association to raise and release salmon into the Willapa River. Steve Lazelle is acknowledged by his peers as a man who has changed the lives of many of the students who come into contact with him.

Jim Van Fleet, a former skilled millwright who worked for Reynolds Aluminum Company in Longview for nearly twenty years, now devotes his life to school children. Mr. Van Fleet has been a volunteer coach for kids in various levels of softball and basketball for all of his life, but recently returned to school and earned a masters in teaching. In 1997, Jim began his teaching career at Caste Rock Middle School where he teaches math and science. Mr. Van Fleet is very popular with his students because of his innovative, stimulating lessons. He has developed several games that are used as lessons in his classes. Mr. Van Fleet is at the forefront in the use of technology for improvement of student learning and has been a mentor to other teachers in development of technology augmented instruction. Jim is respected by staff and parents for his ability, dedication to improvement, and for his approachable demeanor.

Since 1972, George Simonsen has instilled a love of music in hundreds of students at all levels in the Kelso School District. Under George's direction, The Kelso High School Chamber Orchestra has won three gold medals at international music competitions. In addition, George's orchestras have performed at numerous competitions and events throughout the state and Northwest. Several years ago they performed before an audience of 20,000 school board members at a national convention in Anaheim, California. In addition to being a gifted teacher, Mr. Simonsen is the director of the Southwest Washington Symphony—one of the truly fine small symphony orchestras in the country. Mr. Simonsen is an important part of the Kelso team, using music as a tool to support learning, willingly accepting extra work, and bringing enthusiasm to all of the activities in which he participates.

Mary Holmberg masterfully teaches a sixth grade classroom at Meadows Elementary School in Lacey. Besides her exceptional work in her own classroom with diverse students, Ms. Holmberg has been a key leader in implementing new math and science curriculums in the school district. Mary devotes numerous hours of her free time to working with math and science teachers throughout the school district and to helping lead after school programs for students. Mary teaches a double class of math students every day in order to help out a visually impaired teacher. Additionally, Ms. Holmberg is always available both before and after school hours to help students with their work.

A teacher at Elma Elementary School for seventeen years, Carol Boyer believes in relevant, exciting, and fun learning experiences for her fifth grade students. A study of astronomy includes a sleep over to view the heavens. A study of the Oregon Trail includes the construction of a wagon train, formation of families, and a simulation of the life along the trail. To bring animal life close to her students, Carol is working with a master birder to create an environment that attracts species of birds at the school site. She is currently creating a unit of study on the Osprey for student research to answer the question, "Why are the eggshells of the Osprey becoming thinner and how does it affect their survival?" In the midst of school reforms, Carol teaches to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements in a way that is engaging, thought provoking, and hands-on.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on for hours about the remarkable teachers who are impacting students throughout my district every day. Today, however, I can only highlight a few of the amazing, generous individuals who are giving selflessly of themselves to help our children succeed. As Teacher Appreciation Day comes to a close, I would implore residents in my district and parents throughout America to thank their child's teacher for providing the most valuable gift their child will ever receive, the gift of knowledge.

CELEBRATING TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this month I join with citizens across the nation in celebrating Pacific American Heritage Month. The Pacific American community represents an important foundation of America's future and I commend the proud celebration of its heritage.

Taiwanese-American Heritage Week, the part of Pacific American Heritage Month held from May 7 to May 14, celebrates the unique and diverse contributions of the more than 500,000 Taiwanese-Americans in the United States. This portion of the population has made countless significant achievements in our country and their accomplishments can be found in every facet of American life. Taiwanese-Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, and business leaders.

In addition to recognizing these contributions, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week

also provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy on the island of Taiwan. Since 1987, the Taiwanese people have freely selected their own leaders, practiced the religion of their choice, and expressed their thoughts openly and freely. Taiwan has become a vibrant and democratic participant in the family of nations. The recent election of Mr. Chen Shui-bian as the new president of Taiwan should be considered a reaffirmation of their dedication to democratic ideals.

However, despite Taiwan's many accomplishments, significant political challenges still remain. With all that the Taiwanese people and Taiwanese-Americans have accomplished, there can be no complete satisfaction until Taiwan's sovereignty, status and global contributions are respected and appreciated. Gaining worldwide recognition of the legitimacy of Taiwan's government is paramount. It is crucial that the voice of the 22 million people of Taiwan be heard in international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week recognizes and celebrates the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. I hope my colleagues will join with me in commending the accomplishments and contributions of the Taiwanese American community.

INTRODUCTION OF MOTOR CARRIER FUEL COST EQUITY ACT OF 2000

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address a crisis which threatens to severely reduce competition in the trucking industry.

To the hundreds of independent truckers who in an orderly and proper fashion came to their Nation's capitol earlier this year, let me say, we heard you. This gentleman from West Virginia, at least, heard what you had to say.

Everyone is concerned over the effect high fuel costs are having on our economy. But in particular, high diesel fuel prices are hitting the independent small trucker the hardest. These individuals, who own and operate their own rigs, are faced with financial ruin. Simply put, they cannot afford sharp increases in diesel fuel prices and they are not in the position to pass these increased costs on to shippers. The result is that many are going out of business and an important segment of the trucking industry is being lost.

What does this mean? Aside from the very real and pressing personal hardships these independent truckers and their families face, we are also losing competition in the trucking industry. Many shippers are concerned over consolidations in the railroad industry. Situations where due to the lack of competition, they believe they are held hostage to a single railroad. These shippers could face a similar situation in trucking as the owner-operators succumb to rising fuel costs, thinning the ranks of trucking alternatives.

Indeed, last month in testimony before the Resources Committee the head of the Amer-

ican Trucking Associations, Walter McCormick, noted: "If we start to see bottlenecks, shippers who today object to a fuel surcharge will have to scramble to get their freight delivered at any cost. It's easy to see where that leads: Consumer prices rise and inflation snuffs out our country's economic expansion."

This statement echoes what the president of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, James Johnston, said before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 21st: "If we don't fix this problem soon, and truckers continue to lose their businesses or refuse to drive unprofitably, we are going to see greater disruptions in our economy as goods do not get to market and just-in-time deliveries to manufacturers cease to arrive 'just-in-time.'"

To address this situation, we are introducing the "Motor Carrier Fuel Cost Equity Act of 2000." This legislation would require that a mandatory fuel surcharge be put into place for truckload carriers, and that the surcharge actually be passed through to the motor carrier, or as the case may be, the broker or freight forwarder, who is providing the transportation service in situations where diesel fuel prices are the subject of sudden and exorbitant increases. Further, the bill provides that if existing transportation contracts or agreements already contain fuel surcharges, nothing in the legislation would affect those arrangements.

To be sure, this is not unique response to fuel crises. There are situations where existing contracts between shippers and motor carriers contains fuel surcharges. Further, in response to past fuel crises, the Interstate Commerce Commission first mandated them during the 1970s. However, once the filed rate doctrine was abolished, federal authority in this matter lapsed.

The question could be asked, why now mandate a fuel surcharge if some transportation contracts already provide for them. The answer lies in the type of environment in which independent truckers operate. In those instances where they are under lease to a motor carrier to provide the transportation service, there is no guarantee that a surcharge will be passed on to them. The transportation contract is between the motor carrier and the shipper, and the owner-operator has no role in the types of rates charged.

In addition, where the independent trucker has his or her own operating authority and deals directly with shippers, they usually do not have the leverage to obtain a fuel surcharge from them. In effect, the independent trucker, being a small businessman, is put in a position of either having to accept the offered rate or losing the business.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation represents a fair and reasonable approach to addressing this situation. It does not solve the fuel crisis, but it would bring relief to an important sector of the transportation industry.

EQUAL PAY DAY RESOLUTION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of May 11th, as Equal Pay Day. Today is the day

when women's wages for the period beginning January 1, 1999, will equal the amount earned by a man during calendar year 1999.

Since the passage of landmark legislation like the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act, women's participation in the labor market has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, their pay has not.

Women continue to earn less than men for comparable work. U.S. Census data from 1998 shows that women earn only 73 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Equal pay is a problem for all working women. For example, the 95 percent of nurses who are women earn \$30 less each week than the 5 percent of nurses who are men.

Unequal pay doesn't just affect women, it affects our entire economy.

I had hoped that I would be able to bring forward the resolution that Representative Morella and I introduced recognizing Equal Pay Day. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership in the House refuses to acknowledge the significant effects of unequal pay on working women and their families.

This Congress can do more than rest on the laurels of equal pay legislation that passed over 30 years ago. I urge all Members of Congress to commemorate Equal Pay Day. Let women in your district know that you will pursue the passage of equal pay legislation in the 106th Congress.

IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Older Americans Month.

For more than 35 years, the President of the United States has designated May as Older Americans Month—the month when we honor our 34 million older Americans whose contributions helped to make the 20th century the American century.

This year's theme—"In the New Century . . . The Future is Aging"—highlights the impact that those extraordinary contributions had on nearly every aspect of society for future generations of Americans. It also gives us a chance to draw attention to aging issues that policy makers will face as the ranks of older Americans swell in the coming decades.

The next century is expected to be a golden age for seniors, with life expectancy increasing and predictions that older people will outnumber children for the first time in history.

The least we can do is assist those who have given all they can and want to continue to live healthy, active lives.

We started on the right path when we repealed the Social Security Earnings Limit. No longer will the tax code penalize those seniors who choose to stay in the workforce during their golden years.

But there is more to do. For one, we can renew the Older Americans Act, which has not been reauthorized since 1995. Since that time, our nation's seniors and the programs established to serve them have faced an uncertain future.

The Older Americans Act has been a special program for over 34 years. Using a small

slice of the federal budget, the Act has provided hot meals, legal assistance, employment for seniors, and services for the homebound. Because these programs help our seniors to remain active, healthy, and a part of their communities, we must make the Act's reauthorization a priority.

And there are other challenges to face—ensuring that Social Security will be viable for this generation and others, finding a way to furnish long-term care security, and providing a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

But let's not get lost in the minutiae of policy—May is about honoring our seniors, not advancing an agenda.

So, on Friday, I will travel to Darien, Illinois, in my congressional district to celebrate their Older Americans Day. We will honor those who contribute to our communities as grandparents, parents, workers, volunteers, and role models. We will honor those who are the keepers of our traditions and teachers of our values.

I urge all my colleagues to follow Darien's led and to use the month of May to celebrate the great gifts older Americans bring to our lives. And let's help our older friends, parents and grandparents make their lives and our lives more rich and rewarding for many years to come.

IT'S ONLY FAIR

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, a day that symbolizes the financial struggles that women must endure because of the ever-present wage gap.

In the workforce, women are at a clear disadvantage. They are paid less than their male counterparts for doing the same job. Women are paid on average 74 cents for every dollar men received of \$148 less each week. Women of color are faced with an even worse prospect. African American women earn 64 cents for every dollar men earn or \$210 less each week. Hispanic women fare the worst. They earn only 54 cents for every dollar men earn.

This pay inequity is hurting families in every part of our country. A working woman's family loses on average \$4,000 each year due to this inequity. And in Illinois, the numbers are even worse. Women in my home state lose on average \$4,913 a year.

The inequity compounds over the years. A 25-year-old working woman will lose \$523,000 during her lifetime as a result of this wage gap. And when she retires, she'll collect a smaller pension and less Social Security.

There is no denying that a pay gap exists today. When comparing the wages of women and men who have the same job, qualifications, education and background, men win.

As we begin the 21st Century, we must eliminate inequities in the workplace. We must do this for the sake of our next generation of women leaders. When my granddaughters Isabel and Eve are ready to enter the workforce, I want to make sure that they earn the same as their male counterparts. It is only fair.

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN'S DIVISION 2000 SPRING LUNCHEON JOURNAL OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FEDERATION OF BERGEN COUNTY AND NORTH HUDSON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the honorees of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson.

Today, the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson holds its Women's Division 2000 Spring Luncheon Journal, an event that proudly celebrates the heritage and solidarity of the Jewish community, while honoring the women who have tirelessly worked to preserve Jewish identity.

This year's honorees are Dr. Adrienne Greenblatt, Lilo Ollendorf, and Susan Shaw. These three exceptional women represent the life-blood of community service—their contributions to the Jewish community will long endure.

The UJA Federation serves more than 70,000 Jewish people living in 65 Bergen County and North Hudson communities. The 2000 Spring Luncheon will raise money to help the elderly, people with developmental disabilities, and families in crisis. Funds will also be used to help integrate Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union into American society.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Adrienne Greenblatt, Lilo Ollendorf, and Susan Shaw for their extraordinary contributions to the Jewish community.

TRIBUTE TO JIM NICHOLSON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, each year the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans honors outstanding citizens who, overcoming humble or adverse circumstances, become leaders who dedicate themselves to others and serve as role models for youth.

I am proud to report that Jim Nicholson has been chosen as a 2000 Horatio Alger Award recipient.

He was a child raised in bitter poverty, who won an appointment to West Point, led troops in Vietnam, practiced law, built a successful homebuilding and land development company, and served as a volunteer leader to help numerous community and charitable organizations. His faith, family, and commitment to education have been the foundation for his success.

Jim Nicholson now serves as chairman of the Republican National Committee, a post he has held since 1997. His tireless efforts, his optimism, his courage, and his integrity have contributed markedly to restoring public confidence in the ethics of American political leadership.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE PLAINSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company's 40th anniversary.

Over the last forty years, the members of this organization have made a tremendous contribution to their community by protecting their residents and assisting other local departments.

In the days when there were more cows than people in the Township of Plainsboro, a handful of farm workers and American Cyanamid employees decided to erect a fire station. In the first full year of operation, the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company responded to 30 calls for service.

In the early days of the fire company, the alarm was sounded by the stationary fireman on duty at a local farm who would blow the farm's steam whistle when a fire was reported. Firefighters living in the village section of the township could hear the alarm easily. Their family members then relayed the alarm by telephone to members living in outlying areas of the community.

The first truck used was a 1940 American LaFrance with a 640 gallon per minute pump—which stands in contrast to the current 1750 gallon per minute pump that the department uses today. The department has continued to update its fleet of vehicles, purchasing the newest and most efficient fire-fighting equipment.

Over the years, the Plainsboro Fire Company has drawn financial and moral support from Princeton University, one Fire District, and many appreciative citizens. These groups have aided the Plainsboro Fire Company by raising the funds to keep the department running smoothly.

What has not changed about the Plainsboro Fire Company is its dedication and commitment to serving the needs of its community. The 40th anniversary of the department is being celebrated tomorrow at an Anniversary Dinner. The dedication and hard work that is continually demonstrated by the members of the Company is to be admired. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company.

KID DAY AMERICA/
INTERNATIONAL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 20, 2000, the Wilbert Family Chiropractic office will be the official Chiropractic office representing the 6th annual "Kids Day America/International" event in Austell, Georgia. This event will focus on health, safety and environmental issues which affect children, their families and the communities in which

they live. This will be done with the help and support of the Austell Police Department, whose D.A.R.E. program will directly benefit from the event. The Austell Police Department will be on hand to fingerprint ID children, and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic will donate photos of the children. This information will be used to produce ID cards for the children. "McGruff" the Crime Dog will make an appearance and be joined by Leo the Lion of the D.A.R.E. program. The Austell Fire Department will be participating also, with their Fire Safety House, which helps teach children and their parents about fire safety.

I want to congratulate and commend Dr. Marci Wilbert and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic for sponsoring "Kids Day America/International." This program is a positive, grass-roots, community based effort which will help to strengthen our community, and have a positive impact on children and their families.

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following editorial from the Boston Globe on April 29, 2000, for the RECORD. The editorial was brought to my attention by Mr. Shri Srithillampalam, president of the Eelom Tamil Association of America and an activist in the Boston area that continues to call for observance of human rights in Sri Lanka and a peaceful settlement to the 17-year ethnic conflict. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and negotiate a peaceful and immediate end to this war.

[From the Boston Globe, April 29, 2000]
PUSHING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

The long, lethal civil war in Sri Lanka receives little attention here, but for sheer senseless blood-letting it is comparable to the Balkan conflicts. The need for a cease-fire and mediated peace talks became more evident than ever this week when the separatist Tamil Tigers chased 17,000 Sri Lankan army troops from their key strategic position in Elephant Pass, straddling the narrow isthmus that links the south of the country of Jaffna, capital of the Tamil area in the north.

Both sides in this merciless war have committed atrocities, both have suffered terrible losses, and both have sought revenge for past outrages. When government forces recovered bodies of soldiers killed in the fall of Elephant Pass this week, they discovered to their horror that many of the corpses had been mutilated.

The Tamil fighters were taking vengeance for the desecration of their cemeteries four years ago and for acts of ethnic cleansing visited upon the civilian population of their northern province.

The Tigers have often sent terrorist packing suicide bombs into crowds of civilians. This past December they wounded Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga in one eye and killed 25 people in such an attack. To overcome the army's base in Elephant Pass this week they blew up wells, cutting off the troops' water supply in a dry climate where the heat surpassed 100 degrees. Senior officers dying of dehydration were airlifted out of their trap.

For their part, government forces have been denounced by Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross for denying medicines to everyone in the north, civilians and fighters alike.

The United States has had little to do with this war except to sell some weapons to the government and provide some military training. Many of the weapons have fallen into the hands of the Tigers, and the training has done little good. To save the lives that are being squandered on both sides, Washington should now counsel Kumaratunga and her government to accept a cease-fire supervised by international monitors and to pursue to peace talks that Norway has offered to mediate.

HONORING THUNDER BOY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the heroism displayed by Thunder Boy, the masked superhero of Albuquerque. Thunder Boy recently saved the city of Albuquerque from the clutches of the Evil Grouch. Though slow to anger, Thunder Boy does not suffer villains gladly. He rescued Weatherdog, turned the city's fountain back on, and recovered stolen toys for many sick children at Carrie Tingley Hospital.

Through his deeds, Thunder Boy has become Albuquerque's preeminent super hero. Time and again, through all adversity, he has proven himself a true hero, capable of whatever bravery and self-sacrifice are necessary to right a wrong or save a life. But, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget the joy that Thunder Boy brings to those around him daily, even when villains and evil-doers are on vacation.

Thunder Boy's generous heart is what makes him a true hero. He saved Albuquerque because he cares about our city and our neighbors. But his heroism shows in other ways as well. When he sees people who are sad, he smiles to brighten their day. He relishes the peace he finds in others' happiness and wants to spread joy to the world. Thunder Boy shows us that the most important superpower is the ability we all have to make someone else's life better simply by being kind.

Thunder Boy shows us that heroes are not only found in comic books or on television, but are here around us every day if we only look hard enough. Today we honor his strength and kind heart. His fight to help mankind will not be soon forgotten, and neither will his smile. May he teach us all the friendship and kindness that we may all become better people in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the newspaper in Albuquerque, formerly the Daily Planet but now known as the Albuquerque Journal, has been on the trail of Thunder Boy, trying to reveal his true identity. The paper has unconfirmed reports that Thunder Boy, when not battling the Evil Grouch, is a 4-year-old boy name Isaiah Perea, son of Alex Perea and Tanya Larranga, who is fighting another kind of battle—against Leukemia. His wish, through Make-A-Wish Foundation, was to be a superhero. On May 16, 2000, the Foundation arranged for him to save Albuquerque from the Evil Grouch. This report, of course, is still unconfirmed.

Whatever his true identity, the people of Albuquerque are grateful for all he has done for us.

Mr. Speaker, let us wish Thunder Boy God-speed in all the battles he faces.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE THAT ANCESTORS AND LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF PAST OR PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SHALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING WHETHER A VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IS EXEMPT FROM TAX

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, in introducing our bill to fix a current problem in the Internal Revenue Code regarding use of American Legion Post facilities by members and their families. That is, who qualifies as a "member" versus a guest, for purposes of unrelated business income and the exempt status of the Legion Posts. We do not believe Congress intended or contemplated that use of the facilities by families of the member would result in unrelated business income, or worse yet, the possibility of losing the Post's tax exemption under Section 501(c)(19).

By congressional charter, only veterans who served during specifically designated wars may become "members" of the American Legion. Section 501(c)(19) requires only that 75 percent of the members be current or former members of the Armed Forces, and substantially all the other members are cadets, spouses, widows or widowers of past or present members. The IRS says substantially all is 90 percent. The Legion requires internally that 100 percent of its members be qualifying veterans. However, the Legion has many programs, such as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), as well as programs involving youth and family support groups. All are designed to further the purposes for which the exemption was granted.

The Post is a family gathering place for many social and patriotic activities. As a result, many family members of numerous generations attend these events. At the present time, the regulations provide that certain relatives related to the war veteran qualify. These include grandparents, brother, sister, and grandchildren. Questions have been raised whether SALs count for the 100 percent or 90 percent test, or might be considered "associate or social members." The same questions arise regarding auxiliary members and relatives beyond the position of the regulation, i.e. great grandparents, great grandchildren, etc. The answers could determine the extent of unrelated business taxable income as well as exempt status. This is not an issue regarding true guests, i.e. unrelated individuals who are, and must be, accompanied by a member. Nor is any substantive change contemplated regarding the sale of life and health insurance to members as provided in Section 512(a)(4). That section would be

amended to conform the definition to Congressional charter members and their dependents.

Our bill would eliminate these potential issues by providing that the definition of "member" for purposes of the exemption status and unrelated business income would be expanded to include "ancestors or lineal descendants of the member" (i.e. past or present member of the Armed Services meeting the congressional charter definition).

We believe this change is not only fair, but recognizes the original intent of Congress, and the fact that more distant relatives of the member will come into existence over time. We hope our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

THE 3M SALUTE TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate 3M, in partnership with the American Association of School Librarians, for their donation of \$1 million in detection systems to school library media centers in 2000.

In an effort to help school libraries maintain their valuable resource, 3M, a leader in library security, has launched "3M Salute to Schools," a program which will donate up to \$1 million in 3M detection systems for up to 100 schools in the United States. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will be responsible for receiving applications and selecting recipients for the donations.

The program is open to middle and high schools in the United States. Schools selected will be awarded a 3M Detection System for the entrance/exit of their media center, a supply of 3M Tattle-Tape security strips for marking items in their collection and necessary materials processing accessories. Individual donations will vary depending upon the size of the collection and the physical layout of the media center. To receive the donation, a school must meet eligibility requirements, including demonstrating a need for a security system.

Schools must apply by May 31, 2000, applications are available by calling the AASL Fax on Demand at 1-800-545-2433, then press 4 and request document No. 802. Recipients will be announced at the AASL Annual Conference, July 8-11.

For more information about "3M Salute to Schools," contact the AASL awards program at 1-800-545-2433 ext. 4383 or cattenh@ala.org.

This important award program reflects 3M's and AASL's shared commitment to education and investing in our nation's schools.

It is with this outstanding award, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of 3M and their contribution to our nation's school libraries.

REGARDING: MR. B AND SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in commending one of the pillars of my South Texas community, Mr. Raul Besteiro, as he is recognized by the University of Texas at the Brownsville (UT-B) Texas Southmost College as a "Distinguished Alumni" on Friday, May 12.

Mr. B, as Raul Besteiro is affectionately known throughout South Texas, is an educator with the biggest heart I have ever known. We have known each other nearly 20 years. He is a gentle and respected friend who shares my love for all things in South Texas. First as an educator, then in a second career as the Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Port of Brownsville, Mr. B has energetically served the people in the Rio Grande Valley over the course of his life. His work at the Port brings an enormous volume of trade through the Valley, bringing jobs to our area.

It is entirely appropriate that Mr. B be chosen for the honor of Distinguished Alumnus, for he has dedicated his life to the education of young people. He spent the first 33 years of his career in the service of the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD), first as a teacher, then later as Superintendent. He has remained committed to education while in his career as Port Director, offering advice to the school district and employees, and even had a school named after him in 1994. He is a unique educator for the community of Brownsville with the example of his life's work.

The community of Brownsville is lucky to have Raul Besteiro in it. He taught us all the meaning of courage and the remarkable nature of human will when he faced down cancer in the early 1990s. His most recent educational legislative interest, the Brownsville Wetlands Center Act, was signed into law in 1994. This important coordination of industry and UT-B teaches students how to protect, restore, and maintain the fragile ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico region.

This project—in which Raul Besteiro was a prominent and influential player—combines his love of this community, his dedication to education, and his vision of a future in which the environmental concerns of industry and NAFTA are solved by the people who live in a community inspired ever forward by free trade.

Mr. B is a unique patriot, citizen, and family man, respected by so many people because he offers respect to everyone he meets. I ask the colleagues to join me in commending Raul Besteiro for the honor of indeed being a distinguished alumni of the Brownsville (UT-B) Texas Southmost College.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRIAN CRAM

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has

dedicated his life to improving education for the children in the Las Vegas community.

Dr. Brian Cram has spent over 34 years as an educator, serving our children as a teacher, as a principal, and as the superintendent of the Clark County School District. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to an educator who has touched the lives of thousands of students, but it is with great happiness that we wish him a joyous retirement.

Affectionately known by the students in his district as the "Supernintendo," Dr. Cram's tenure will be remembered by his strong personal relationships, and his ability to bring the "human side" to the needs of the school district.

As a principal, Dr. Cram was not satisfied sitting behind a desk, and was happiest during the times when he was actively involved with the students' education. As a superintendent, Dr. Cram would actively participate in the educational needs of the students by traveling to as many schools possible to read to classes during the district's "reading weeks."

Dr. Cram was witness to the enormous growth of Las Vegas, as the Clark County School System expanded from 111,000 students, to over 215,000 students. As a self-proclaimed "poster boy for school bonds," Dr. Cram supported the building of 100 new schools, and championed voter approval of billions of dollars in school construction bonds for the students, teachers, and staff of the Clark County School District.

Driven by the fundamental principle that education is the "great equalizer" in life, Dr. Cram endorsed the School to Work program that was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, enabling students with the necessary tools to excel in the workforce.

Dr. Cram should be very proud of his accomplishments, as he has been successful in achieving his greatest challenge to meet the growth needs of the 8th largest school district in the country. His commitment and dedication is unmatched, and will be truly missed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Cram on behalf of the Clark County community, and wish him every success in future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall No. 154 for the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 3709, the Internet Nondiscrimination Act. I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather, and therefore, was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the rule.

HONORING WILLIAM G. SHEEHAN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a few minutes to

honor a special constituent of mine who after 30 years of providing senior citizens with dedicated service at the Social Security Administration has decided to retire on June 2 of this year.

William G. Sheehan, who presently serves as the District Manager of the Springfield, MA, regional office of the Social Security Administration, has decided that the time has come for him to hang up his hat and retire from a long and meritorious career.

Bill Sheehan's commitment to seniors, the poor and the disabled in western Massachusetts is well known, and his day to day input and dedication in the Springfield regional SSA office will surely be missed.

Bill started his career with the Social Security Administration in 1967 as a Claims Representative in SSA's Springfield office. In 1971, he became an Operations Supervisor, working out of the Hartford, CT, office. He continued to climb the ranks within the Social Security Administration, moving from office to office, when in June of 1980, he became the District Manager of the Springfield Regional Social Security office. He has served in this position for more than 20 years.

There is common and collective praise for the job Bill Sheehan has done during his tenure in Springfield. The usual comments I hear about Bill go something like: "Oh, Bill Sheehan—he's the nicest man," or "Bill Sheehan, he's been so helpful." Surely his friendly face and his cordial demeanor will be greatly missed.

In addition to his brilliant service record, Bill has had a very rich public life in the community outside of his office. He serves on the Career Advisory Board at Springfield College, and was a Board member at Independence House, a shelter for men. He currently serves on the Boards of Independence House, the Galaxy Council, and the Consumer Credit Council of western Massachusetts, as well as the Greater Springfield Senior Services Inc., where he has also served as past President and Treasurer. He is also a retired United States National Guard Lieutenant Colonel and Squadron Commander.

Most noteworthy to mention today is Bill Sheehan's commitment to his family. He is married to the former Madelyn Ferrero, his former schoolmate at Cathedral High School in Springfield. Madelyn is a graduate from Elms College and is a teacher at Forest Park Middle School.

Together, Bill and Madelyn have two children, Bill and Mark. Mark is married to Jennifer Doyle, lives on Cape Cod, and works for State Street Bank in Boston. His son Bill lives in Boston and is Vice President for an Internet company, Suppliemarket.

Bill Sheehan is a graduate of Western New England College, doing it the hard way, at night, while working during the day. Bill also sold advertising for the Springfield newspapers prior to coming to the Social Security Administration.

Bill enjoys his life in Wilbraham, keeping a meticulously groomed yard and house. He plans to spend much of his retirement at his summer home at the Rhode Island shore.

I would like to take a moment to thank Bill Sheehan for a life of public and community service. Social Security beneficiaries in the Springfield area, and all of us who have worked with him throughout the years, will miss him very much.

HONORING NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is a well established fact that non-commissioned officers are the backbone of our nation's military. Today's NCO's are given dual roles as leaders and technicians. In addition to providing operational support for their superiors and their organizations, these men and women are duty bound to provide for the health, welfare and safety of the troops under their care. An effective NCO must be mentally and physically dedicated as well as technically and tactically proficient in his or her field of expertise. Such qualities are inherent in Command Sergeant Major Benjamin C. Palacios.

Widely known as Ben, CSM Palacios was born on November 11, 1950, on the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas. He later moved to Guam where he graduated from George Washington High School. Initially enlisting with the Army on October, 1969, he underwent Basic Training at Fort Ord, CA.

Ben was destined to serve in the Army. He took a 2-year hiatus from military life in 1972 only to re-enlist in 1974 as a Specialist Four. He is now one of the Army's most senior NCO's.

All through his many years of military service Ben served both in the Continental United States and overseas with the 1st Infantry Division, the 9th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 2d Armored Division. His assignments include serving in all enlisted leadership positions within the Armor Career Management Field—from Tank Commander to Command Sergeant Major. He also served as an Operations Sergeant in several Armor Battalions. In 1988, he was assigned as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 50th Armored Division, New Jersey Army National Guard.

From March 1994 through February 1996, Ben served as the Division Command Sergeant Major for the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA. While serving as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major for the 2nd Vanguard Brigade from May 1994 through January 1996, he participated in several deployments with the Brigade. These included tours of duty with the National Training Center and Bright Star '94 in Egypt. In addition, he was also deployed to Saudi Arabia in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as the 3-69 Armor Battalion Command Sergeant Major. Ben served as the Command Sergeant Major for the Third Mobile Armored Corps at Fort Hood in Texas for 2½ years prior to assuming duty as the United States Army Forces Command Command Sergeant Major on July 27, 1998.

Ben sought further development through professional military education. He attended the Fifth Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy and the Sergeant Major Academy. He also completed the First Sergeants Course in addition to obtaining an Associate's Degree from Fort Steilacoom Community College.

Among his decorations are the Legion of Merit (1OLC), the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (3OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal (9th Award),

the National Defense Medal with Bronze Star, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the NCDP Ribbon (#4), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Ribbon (#2), and the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal. CSM Palacios has also been a member of the elite Sergeant Morales Club since 1979.

On Guam and the Marianas, the personal accomplishments and success of native sons and daughters are celebrated and adopted as triumphs for everyone in the community. Through his illustrious service in the United States Army, Ben has attained respect and admiration of many. He has brought recognition, not only to himself, but also to the people of the Marianas. On their behalf, I commend Command Sergeant Major Benjamin C. Palacios for his outstanding achievements.

COMMITTING TO EQUAL PAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today more women are working than ever before. The number of working women has grown from 18.4 million in 1950 and to 63 million in 1997. Women made up 29.6 percent in 1950 and 46.2 percent in 1997. Our nation depends on the contributions of working women. And equal pay has been the law of the land since 1963. Yet today is Equal Pay Day—the day when women's earnings from January 1999 to May 11, 2000 will finally equal what men earned in 1999 alone. 37 years later after the enactment of the Equal Pay Act, women are still paid less than men—even with similar education, skills and experience. It's time we ensure women can make ends meet and find respect and opportunity on the job.

In 1996, women were paid 74 cents for every dollar men received. That's \$26 less to spend on groceries, housing, child care and other expenses for every \$100 worth of work. Over a lifetime of work, the 26 cents-on-the-dollar adds up. The average working woman will lose \$523,000 to unequal pay during her working life.

Ensuring equal pay for equal work is about improving the lives of families. In the United States, 99 out of every 100 women will work for pay at some point in their lives. 71.9 percent of women with children younger than 18 are in the labor force. This means the wage gap doesn't just shortchange women. It hurts children and families because many working women are the primary breadwinners in their households. In fact, nearly two-thirds of working women provide half or more of their household income, and forty-one percent are the sole source of income. Many families need two full paychecks to get by every month. One full paycheck and one three-quarters paycheck just doesn't cut it.

That's one of the reasons I am a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation will help us to be better enforce the Equal Pay Act. It will put wage discrimination on the basis of gender on the same footing as wage discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will toughen the remedy provisions of the Equal Pay Act. It will strengthen enforcement of the Equal Pay Act

by committing more resources to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It will improve education and outreach on differentials between women and men in the workplace, and lift the gag rule imposed by many employers who forbid employees to discuss their wages with co-workers.

I believe most employers want to treat their workers fairly. But for those employers who reward the hard work and loyalty of women with a partial paycheck, we need such measures as the Paycheck Fairness Act to put a stop to their wrongdoing.

Mr. Speaker, 37 years is long enough to wait for equity. It's time we join together and end the wage gap.

THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE S.H.A.P.E. COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Self-Help for African People Through Education, Inc., more commonly known as the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, of Houston, Texas, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. On Saturday, May 13, 2000, S.H.A.P.E. will celebrate 30 years of commitment and service to strengthening Black families, the community and the nation.

S.H.A.P.E.'s successful growth is a result of the exemplary services the center provides and offers to area residents. Founded in 1969, chartered by the State of Texas in 1971, and classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization, S.H.A.P.E. started as a summer enrichment program for youth promoting knowledge of, pride in, and respect for their African heritage. Since its inception, S.H.A.P.E. has been involved in the creation, implementation and operation of education, cultural enrichment, employment, economic development, and crime/juvenile delinquency prevention programs.

In the spring of 1974, S.H.A.P.E. purchased what was once its main building, located at 3815 Live Oak. Remodeled in 1993, this building is now called the S.H.A.P.E. Family Center. It has an art gallery, cafe, small classrooms/meeting areas, a library, and performance space for cultural, educational and other community events. In 1993, S.H.A.P.E. purchased a building at 3903 Alameda called the S.H.A.P.E. Harambee Building which houses the business office and economic development programs. The Harambee Building has a major community space that can seat up to 500 people. Public events from town hall meetings to plays to Kwanzaa Celebrations have been held at both locations over the years.

S.H.A.P.E. has two major programs: the Family Strengthening & Empowerment Program (FSEP) and the Community Empowerment Program (CEP). The major components of the FSEP include After-School and Summer Enrichment programs for children and a Parents Rites of Passage program for adults. Forming the core of the CEP are the Cultural Arts Program (Community Festivals, Celebrations and Ceremonies), Annual Events, Economic Development, and Community Organizing, Outreach & Partnership activities.

S.H.A.P.E. Community Center has been able to provide these services over the past 30 years because of in-kind contributions and volunteers. Throughout the years, many diverse organizations, groups, businesses and governmental agencies have helped S.H.A.P.E. in its efforts to meet the community needs, and I commend each and every one of them who, over the past 30 years, has helped to make S.H.A.P.E. a model community center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the spirit of service that has flourished at S.H.A.P.E. Community Center over the past 30 years, and to join me in congratulating Self-Help for African People through Education, Inc., on its 30th anniversary.

THE RETIREMENT OF BRIAN HUNTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the retirement of Mr. Brian Hunter from the California Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Hunter has served the state of California in the Department of Fish and Game for 39 years. For the past 20 years he has managed the Department's 15 county Central Coast Region.

Brian Hunter was born in 1940 in Berkeley, CA. He was raised on a sheep and cattle ranch near Lincoln, California. During his youth, Brian was involved in 4H and the Future Farmers of America. He received his A.A. degree from Sacramento City and American River Colleges in 1961. In 1963 Brian received a B.A. degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry from Sacramento State University. Three years later in 1966, Brian received his Masters Degree from Sacramento State in Microbiology and in Wildlife diseases. He was later certified as a Wildlife Biologist and deputized peace officer by the Wildlife Society.

In July of 1963, Brian began his career with the Department of Fish and Game working in the Wildlife Laboratory in Sacramento, CA. He held several positions including Laboratory Technician to Wildlife Pathologist in charge. In January 1978, Mr. Hunter became the Wildlife Management Supervisor and Big Game Coordinator for the Sacramento office, a position he held until 1980. In 1980, Brian was promoted to Regional manager of the Central Coast region of the California Department of Fish and Game.

During his tenure with the Department of Fish and Game, Brian was instrumental in developing numerous policies and projects. He established cooperative relations with CalTrans, Pacific Gas and Electric and many other entities to help them accomplish their public works projects while maintaining and protecting natural resources. He also provided leadership for interagency coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Army National Guard. It was Brian who made the initial agreement that led to the Wildlife Conservation Board's acquisition of property at Moss Landing and the creation of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research in Monterey County, CA. Brian

also had oversight and acted as the media contact for the 1998 Shell Oil Spill in Carquinez Strait of Northern California which ultimately led to a \$19 million settlement. He was instrumental in the \$1 million settlement agreement with Browning Ferris Industries to help restore Pilarcitos Creek in San Mateo County, CA.

Throughout his life, Brian Hunter has been an ardent supporter of recreational fishing and hunting programs throughout northern California. He has encouraged, supported and participated in numerous youth hunting and fishing programs. He developed animal capture and restraint protocols and wrote the handbook for animal capture as well as developing the training class. He has served as the associate editor of TRACKS and on the editorial advisory board of the Outdoor California magazine which is regularly published by the Department of Fish and Game. Perhaps Brian's greatest accomplishment has been in the hiring, training and mentoring of numerous successful Fish and Game Employees.

Brian is a devoted family man as well. He is married and two children, ages 33 and 35. In his spare time Brian prides himself as a hunter, angler, observer of nature and a purveyor of common sense.

Clearly Brian Hunter has been a valuable asset to the people and the wildlife of northern California. His distinguished career record speaks for itself. It has been my honor to represent Brian as both a State Senator and now as a Congressman. For these reasons I move that we recognize and honor Brian Hunter for his outstanding achievements and service to the State of California.

INTERNET NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3709) to make permanent the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act as it applies to new, multiple, and discriminatory taxes on the Internet.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address H.R. 3709, The Internet Nondiscrimination Act. The Internet transformed business and commerce in a revolutionary fashion. Congress now must face the daunting task of shaping policy concerning its taxation.

Mr. Chairman, I come from East Texas, a region that has a heavy concentration of small businesses. Under law, these businesses are required to collect sales tax. In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states cannot require businesses without a physical presence in their geographic area to collect and remit sales taxes. Small businesses were essentially rendered uncompetitive under this ruling. These "brick and mortar" stores now face extinction because they are forced to compete with online businesses who do not have to collect state and local taxes.

As things stand, state and local governments lose about \$5 billion annually in uncollected sales taxes on mail order purchases

and are expected to lose about \$15 billion annually in uncollected sales taxes on Internet purchases by the year 2003. I am aware that the Internet is the engine driving current economic growth and am in no way trying to jeopardize its growth. The Internet provides access to products that my rural constituents would not otherwise be able to purchase. However, I believe that electronic commerce and small business should exist on a level playing field with regard to taxation. It is time that Congress begins to address the task of creating a fair tax code for online retailers and their brick and mortar counterparts.

I urge my colleagues to work toward a technology neutral, simplified, sales tax system which guarantees that buyers and sellers are treated equally. It is important that Congress be given and appropriate period of time to build a consensus on the long-term solution to Internet taxation issues. We must be careful to avoid a hasty, ill-conceived tax system that places unnecessary tax burdens on our consumers and sellers.

I stand in support of H.R. 3709, The Internet Nondiscrimination Act. It is my hope that, in the future, Congress will go one legislative step further and address the issues surrounding e-commerce taxation.

SAMUEL B. MOODY BATAAN DEATH MARCH ACT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation in the name of a special and dear friend who valiantly served in World War II and survived the treacherous Bataan Death March. The "Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act" would provide compensation to those individuals who were forced to partake and held imprisoned following the ruthless procession.

Last year, Sam Moody passed away in Central Florida. I first met Sam in my civic activities in central Florida some years ago. However, I never really knew much about his background until some years ago when I invited Sam and several other veteran leaders to a small luncheon gathering.

As we sat together, I asked each of the veterans to relate some of their military service recollections after lunch to our group. Sam Moody started off rather hesitantly but he began telling an incredible story.

In 1942, American and Filipino troops fought bravely against the Japanese army during the Second World War on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Due to the low supplies and no hope of reinforcements, these men fought valiantly until they were forced to surrender to the enemy.

Within six days, the troops were corralled in the Mariveles, just south of Bataan. Little did they know, they were in for the journey of their lives—the Bataan Death March. In April of 1942 they began their march from Mariveles to their yet unknown destination of San Fernando—more than 60 miles away. The tropical temperatures in the Philippines during this season were excruciating, many men dying from dehydration and some from exhaustion. Treatment by their Japanese captors was bru-

tal and often fatal as those who could not continue marching were summarily beaten or executed on the spot.

Many marchers attempted to escape into the jungles and some succeeded, however, most were forced to continue on their journey. Once they reached the railroad sidings, the troops were crammed into railroad cars like cattle. They continued to feel the torture of the tropical sun and their 30 mile train journey took close to 4 hours with long stops at various points.

After reaching camp O'Donnel in the jungles of Arlac Province, these soldiers were held as prisoners of war for over 3½ years.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the "Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act" is to illustrate that while food and clothing allowances existed for our soldiers the United States failed to pay these benefits to the Bataan Death March survivors during their time spent in captivity.

In fact, those who survived to see their liberation in 1945 also did not receive the promotions or pay grade increases given to their counterparts who were not held as POWs. Pay increases and benefits were a standard part of military service, however, these brave individuals have yet to receive their lost payment.

In an effort to give these brave men their just benefits, I am introducing this legislation to compensate those survivors who were held captive after the Bataan Death March with their earned pay and benefits.

I would like to invite each member of this body to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this legislation. For those who gave so much in service to our Nation deserve to be duly compensated for their sacrifice and valor.

EULOGY FOR GRACE DIEHL

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Grace Diehl, who passed away last month. Grace was the wife of Leo Diehl, the former assistant and close friend of Speaker "Tip" O'Neill. I am inserting the eulogy delivered at Grace's mass by Tom O'Neill, the speaker's son. It is obvious in reading the eulogy that Grace and Leo shared a love and devotion that we all should emulate. I submit this eulogy not only to pay my respect to Grace and her memory, but to share with my colleagues a true love story.

EULOGY FOR GRACE DIEHL

Good Morning to each of you . . . Father . . . Grace's family and friends . . . and especially to you Leo. It is a great honor and a significant responsibility . . . to offer some remembrances about Grace whose long life spanned most of the last century and who . . . thanks in large part to an enviable but mysterious mix of great genes, determination and the constant care and concern of an equally determined husband . . . managed to also celebrate the dawn of this new century.

Grace's life is a remarkable saga, best told in two parts. . . . The years before "My Leo" as she liked to call him and the years with Leo, which I know she would agree were her best.

Most good stories begin at the beginning which is where I should start. The problem is

that no one is exactly sure, in Grace's case, exactly where the beginning is. A variety of educated guesses put her date somewhere between 1904 and . . . 1910. And since Grace was an avid believer in the old saying that "a lady never tells her age", I will leave it to you to "do the math".

In any case, we do know that Grace Shaunessy was both in North Cambridge on August 1st.

Like so many of her generation, the major markers of Grace's life included two World Wars and a Great Depression. But thanks to entrepreneurial parents . . . her father, owned a chain of variety stories and, later her mother ran a popular neighborhood tavern . . . Grace's prospects were a lot better than most of the young women of her generation.

She was able to graduate from Cambridge High and Latin and further her education at The Chandler School.

Grace, like her parents, had a good head for business and in many respects was ahead of her time. She was for many years a career woman holding down positions in the foreign exchange department at Jordan Marsh, working for the government distributing those all-important rationed stamps . . . so much a hallmark of the Depression era . . . and working in the Tax Department of Cambridge City Hall.

It was there, in Cambridge City Hall, that Leo Diehl, himself a "tax man" met and began courting Grace Shaunessy. Leo and my father were both happily employed in the Assessor's Office until the Assessor decided he didn't like politicians and summarily fired both of them.

Leo and Grace began a whirlwind . . . and some would say . . . over-extended courtship that lasted over ten years and included trips to New York . . . properly chaperoned of course by a respectable, married couple . . . my parents! I'm not entirely sure what finally convinced Leo to "pop the question" but my hunch is that it had something to do with his feeling the need to settle in to a saner life after helping to run my father's first and notoriously difficult first race for Congress against LoPresti in 1952? In any case, Grace and Leo finally married in 1953, and remarkably, although they both began the married years well into mid-life, their marriage last for almost fifty years.

Grace gave up her career and happily settled into a new life, eventually adjusting to another contemporary twist . . . a commuter marriage. She and Leo bought a house in Belmont and, after a while, built their dream house, complete with a newly-dredged Harbor in Harwichport. Together with their many friends and neighbors . . . the McGuires, the Does, the Maloneys, the Roes . . . and, finally, after a long period impinging on Leo and Grace's hospitality and repeated use of the spare bedroom . . . the O'Neill's finally scraped up enough money to join the rest of the gang.

Those were fun times for Grace and Leo and for my parents and their friends. . . . Saturday nights at the Club, card games and songfests. Grace loved a good party and was always willing to endure Leo and my father's duets. She even enjoyed listening to Leo's famous and often repeated rendition of "Ten Baby Fingers". But, after a while, she drew the line on "I met a Lemon in the Garden of Love Where They Said Only Peaches Grow".

Beside her business know-how, Grace had many other interests and talents . . . gardening, painting and needlework to name a few. She was always the lady with high standards and excellent taste . . . beautifully dressed . . . the creator of comfortable surroundings. But the center of her universe was, without question, Leo. He doted on her and she enjoyed being doted on. In their later years, when Grace's health

began to fail, Leo made sure, with considerable effort, that she got to go out for a ride every day. He handled her every need without complaint and with a patience and devotion that is remarkable and rare. Leo, we know that you have suffered a great loss and that you will miss Grace. I hope that you will rely on the love and support of your family and friends . . . and on the knowledge that you were at Grace's side ministering to her every need until the very end.

Godspeed to you, Leo . . . and to you, Grace.

THE "BANKING EQUAL TREATMENT ACT", H.R. 4427

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the "Banking Equal Treatment Act" to ensure that all American families have access to basic financial services. It is hard to believe that in this age of Internet banking, online stock trading and embedded options, millions of American families lack the basic passport to the broader economy—a bank account. But, it is true.

According to the Federal Reserve, more than 8.4 million low- and moderate-income families do not now have access to a checking or savings account at a mainstream financial institution. As a consequence, their financial condition, and ability to fully participate in the nation's current economic prosperity, suffers greatly.

For some time now, I have been concerned that we are seeing the development of a dual financial services structure in this country—one for middle and upper income individuals that involves traditional regulated and insured financial institutions; a second for lower-income households that involves higher cost services from lesser-regulated entities check-cashers, pawn shops and other quasi-financial entities.

A 1998 survey found that among Earned Income Tax Credit Claimants who used volunteer tax preparation services in Chicago, 44 percent used a check cashing service to cash their EITC refund check. Some estimate that low-income families may pay more than \$15,000 in fees over a lifetime for check-cashing and bill-paying services from less-regulated financial institutions, such as check-cashers and payday lenders. This legislation addresses this inequity in the financial marketplace in a positive way that benefits both consumers and banks.

First, the bill permits the Federal Reserve Banks to pay interest on the so-called sterile reserves that banks, thrifts and credit unions are required to maintain in the Federal Reserve Banks as part of the monetary control apparatus of the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board has testified that paying interest on sterile reserves would be a helpful tool in the conduct of monetary policy. Understandably, many in the industry view the combination of required reserves and the inability to receive interest on those reserves as a tax on the industry and support a repeal of the prohibition.

Second, before the Federal Reserve banks can pay interest on sterile reserves, the Fed-

eral financial regulators must require that all banks, thrifts and credit unions offer their customers affordable transaction accounts. Under the bill, an affordable transaction account holder would be permitted a minimum of 8 withdrawal transactions or checks per month for a low monthly service fee. Banks could charge a reasonable fee for other additional transactions, but all fees charged for using these accounts would be capped at amount established by the Federal banking and credit union regulators. The bill gives institutions flexibility. With regulatory approval, a financial institution could offer alternative accounts that are as advantageous to consumers as the low-cost transaction accounts.

This legislation is fair to financial institutions. The Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office estimate that permitting the Federal Reserve Banks to pay interest on sterile reserves will return to the banking industry between \$600 million and \$700 million, after taxes, in the first five years. It would only take a portion of those funds—probably in the \$100 million range—to defray the costs to banks of establishing low-cost transaction accounts for the millions of unbanked Americans.

Mainstream financial institutions will benefit in another way. They will find that the low-cost account holders will become good customers. A Federal Reserve study indicates that many low-income families with bank accounts used other bank products, including credit cards, automobile loans, first mortgages and certificates of deposits. This legislation also represents sound economic policy. Research indicates that once "unbanked" families enter the doors of depository institutions as regular account holders, they are likely to become savers and begin to accumulate assets.

Another important provision of the bill preserves state laws that provide more advantageous low-cost accounts for consumers. The bill amends the Bank Enterprise Act of 1991 to provide the same protection for stronger state laws. This last provision resolves an alleged conflict between the Bank Enterprise Act and New Jersey's Consumer Checking Account Act, which requires financial institutions to offer low-cost accounts similar to the bill's low-cost transaction accounts. In 1992, the Comptroller of the Currency opined that national banks did not need to comply with the New Jersey statute because the Bank Enterprise Act, as clearly indicated in the report on the bill, preempted that state statute. In 1996, the New Jersey Department of Banking asked the Comptroller to reconsider that opinion. That request is still under consideration. Although Congress did not intend to preempt state law when it adopted the Bank Enterprise Act, this bill effectively resolves the preemption question in favor of the New Jersey statute.

This legislation will work. For a successful example, you can look to my home state of New York, where we do a lot of banking. Since 1994, the State of New York has been requiring all financial institutions within its borders to offer low-cost basic banking accounts to consumers. New York financial institutions are complying with the law to the benefit of all involved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to follow the example of New York and New Jersey and adopt the Banking Equal Treatment Act, so that the millions of American families who have been left out of the financial mainstream

will have an opportunity to receive basic financial services at a reasonable cost.

HONORING NADINE MILFORD

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention a woman who exemplifies the courage and love of a mother, even under circumstances that no parent should ever have to face. Nadine Milford has become a symbol of motherhood in my District, and throughout the state of New Mexico. Today, I would like to join American Mothers, Inc. in honoring Nadine as Mother's day approaches.

On Christmas Eve, 1992, Nadine's daughter, Melanie, and her three granddaughters, Kandyce, Kacee, and Erin, were hit and killed by a drunk driver in one of New Mexico's worst DWI accidents. Only Nadine's son-in-law, Paul Cravens, survived the wreck. This compelled her to dedicate her life to others. She has become a supporter and a comforter to the families of DWI victims, sometimes driving hundreds of miles to comfort a grieving mother.

Nadine is powerful and courageous. She lives life with a commitment to herself and to others to make this world better, gaining strength and balance from her deep faith. She remains dedicated, even through the most trying times, and will take her message as far as it will reach. Complimenting her dedication is her patience. Her son, Lance, has said of her, "Mom's persistence has moved mountains one grain of sand at a time."

Mr. Speaker, we know that laws are difficult to change, and our legislative system works slowly. More so, it takes a desire to be involved, whether you're a legislator or a caring mother who has experienced the effects of a nationwide problem—DWI—on the most personal of levels. Since that fateful holiday night so many years ago, Nadine has become New Mexico's most active and visible DWI lobbyist and activist. And she has been a significant factor in historic DWI reform throughout the years in New Mexico.

Nadine's personal philosophy has earned her respect from state legislators and friends alike: "Persistence wears resistance." In a world of chaos and unjustifiable tragedies, Nadine found the courage to forgive and to help. Today we gather to honor her mind and her will to make change as well as her courage, her strength, her commitment, and her involvement in our community. She encompasses what it is to be a woman and a mother: She is reverent, strong, caring, and willing to fight for a better world.

Mr. Speaker, I pray that no mother will ever have to face what Nadine Milford has faced. But for those who do, I pray that they will have the strength and character that Nadine Milford has.

IN HONOR OF THE PANASONIC-SPONSORED KID WITNESS NEWS PROGRAM AND THIS YEAR'S "NEW VISION" AWARD WINNERS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Panasonic-sponsored Kid Witness News program (KWN) and this year's "New Vision" award winners.

KWN began 17 years ago in Weehawken, New Jersey. Panasonic adopted the program in 1990, and has expanded it to include more than 200 schools in 117 cities across the nation. This is KWN's 10th anniversary with Panasonic.

KWN is an exceptional educational tool, allowing young people to express their feelings and share their perceptions of our world. With this program, our youth can tell us what they value—what is important to them. In addition, students gain valuable experience in news gathering and video production.

This Program is especially important because it provides public school students with education, professional development, instruction, and access to technology—essential ingredients for future success, at a time when these young people have the potential to be anything they aspire to be.

The great success of KWN would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Panasonic, its staff, and numerous volunteers; and congratulations to the talented students and dedicated teachers who have contributed as well—you are all an asset to our communities and our schools.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Panasonic-sponsored Kids Witness News program on its 10th anniversary; and congratulations to this year's "New Vision" award winners.

MARCIA WAGNER, CHAMPION OF CHILDREN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise now during Teacher Appreciation Week to honor a devoted teacher from my Congressional district. Mrs. Marcia Wagner has taught music to thousands of students in Sterling, Colorado over her thirty-year career. After teaching at several of Sterling's grade schools, Mrs. Wagner completed her career on a high note at Sterling Middle School as a recipient of the Francis Gillespie Excellence Award—an award honoring her commitment to children.

In Sterling, Colorado, like many places in the West, there is a reliance on family and community. Mrs. Wagner embodies these values which are so prevalent throughout the district I represent. She has been a role model and has profoundly influenced thousands of students by putting children first and looking to parents and the local community for support.

During Teacher Appreciation Week, which recognizes a first-rate education system and properly functioning democracy requires a

partnership between educators, parents, and children; let us look to Marcia Wagner, a champion of children and community.

TRIBUTE TO WILBUR J. HENRICHS

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wilbur J. Henrichs of Danforth, Illinois. For the last 64 years, Mr. Henrichs has served farmers in his feed store, the Danforth Hatchery. I am sad to say that on March 25th, Mr. Henrichs retired at the age of 87 and the Danforth Hatchery closed for business.

The Danforth Hatchery opened for business in 1936 with Mr. Henrichs managing the store. It was a feed and supply store and at one point served as a poultry hatchery. After managing the store for a few years, Mr. Henrichs took ownership and has operated the store ever since. Over time, his local suppliers have closed forcing him to drive over 200 miles to pick up his inventory, never once passing his increased delivery charges onto his customers. He is well known to farmers throughout the area for his reliability and willingness to lend a helping hand.

In addition to running the Hatchery, Mr. Henrichs has made outstanding contributions to the community through various civic activities. He has been active in his church and served as Village Clerk for over 40 years. In addition, Mr. Henrichs devotes his time and money to the 4-H and FFA groups in support of local youth and their involvement in agriculture.

As a life long resident of Danforth, Mr. Henrichs is known for his quiet, unselfish leadership. Over the years, he has touched countless lives in his daily routine. He continues to serve as a role model through his leadership, sense of humor and humanitarian attitude. On behalf of the citizens of Danforth and those he has served, I thank him for his dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the distinguished service to agriculture and the Danforth Community of Mr. Henrichs; for his leadership and professional commitment to stewardship of the land and providing food and fiber to the world.

DANFORTH HATCHERY CLOSES AFTER 64 YEARS

(By Mike Lyons)

DANFORTH—Time was this place reverberated with the "cheeps" of a thousand newly hatched chicks and sparked with the animated chatter of newlyweds placing orders for the family coop.

Time was the heavy front door of Danforth's downtown hatchery swung wide as grade school classes trooped in to witness life making its tenuous beginning beneath the "hen warm" lights of the incubator trays.

And time was proprietor Wilbur Henrichs welcomed such "intrusions" in his business day, including the daily visits of village kibitzers, curious kids and connoisseurs of that cutthroat card game called "Pepper."

In the process he became an indelible fixture in the lives of the rural community of Danforth and beyond—the matrix of hometown memory. A man they respectfully call "a treasure."

On Saturday generations of Wilbur's friends, and a sizable contingent of family, dropped by to help him end an era.

At 88, Wilbur elected to end business Saturday and close his cavernous 19th Century landmark on Danforth's main downtown intersection.

But if one supposed Wilbur's quitting business after having provided "quality chicks since 1936," would somehow escape to notice the organs of modern agricultural communication, one would be dead wrong.

Late Friday no less a luminary than WGN radio's Max Armstrong, phoned to wish Wilbur well in retirement.

Wilbur accepts the unexpected tribute with hallmark humility, his eyes twinkling just beneath the bill of a Golden Sun Feeds cap, its visor characteristically tilted just a bit to the right.

"It was fascinating to come in here in the spring, being a little kid, and seeing all these things," says Danforth native John Tammen, a farm manager in the Kankakee office of Soy Capital Ag Services.

But youngsters could observe far more than the mysteries of life unfolding at the hatchery.

They could observe the basics of small town business—Wilbur style.

"When Wilbur wasn't here—when he was making a delivery, or something—you could go over to the feed store (across the street), pick up what you wanted then come back over here and write it on the bill and sign you're name to it."

That accounting—called the "honor system" in some quarters—was good enough for Wilbur, who'd send his bill in due course.

Just outside, the seven foot tall fiberglass rooster townsmen doubled "Big Wilbur," stands his last watch on main street.

Ranks of Wilbur's well wishers use the fiberglass fowl as backdrop for farewell pictures with their favorite businessman.

And everywhere, "Wilbur recollections" are being offered by those whose lives he has some way touched.

Take Ashkum's David Trout, who along with his wife Virginia, have operated the petting zoo at the Iroquois County Fair for the past 15 years.

According to Trout, "Wilbur style" because dealings helped ensure the zoo could survive its early financial challenges.

"When we first started, we'd run some big feed bills and he'd never say anything to us. We were young and just trying to get started," notes Trout.

Just outside, village board member Denny Johnson stands near "Big Wilbur," recalling his own youthful visits to the hatchery.

"Classes would come up on little field trips," notes Johnson, 54, adding that he too was a "field trip" participant some three and a half decades ago.

"He's great guy," says Johnson a village board member.

None here would dispute that assessment, least of all Randy Johnson, Denny's brother, also a member of the village board.

"He doesn't have an enemy in the world!"

But what's Wilbur plan for retirement?

That fact is, Wilbur's not certain.

"I guess I'll have to think of something," he says, a grin quickly growing.

Maybe he'll join the ranks of the Pepper players he's hosted over the years.

As he says, "it keeps seniors off the streets and hold down senior delinquency."

But the Pepper gang will have to find new digs before that can happen. Wilbur just laughs when it's suggested that the Pepper crew might want to buy his building—a bit of a salty investment, even for this seasoned crew of card players.

Rumor has it that the Pepper players may find temporary quarters at a local church. A convenient venue given that many have likely prayed for better hands a time or two.

Saturday will mark a new chapter in Danforth's history when Wilbur Henrichs closes

the Danforth Hatchery. An open house is being held in Wilbur's honor from 8:30 to 12:30 and we would urge you to go.

Wilbur is one of those guys who has made life a little more interesting. When you're talking to him you can't afford to relax, because about the time you do, Wilbur, with tongue firmly in cheek, will come through with one of those one-liners he likes to slip in.

Wilbur went back in time with us Monday and told us he started working at the hatchery in 1936 and bought the store from Edgar Brockman in 1955. During the war years Wilbur said the hatchery produced thousands of chicks. Wilbur continued to turn out chicks until last year when he had to start turning orders down for the first time in 64 years.

The times when the hatchery ran 24 hours per day was nerve wracking, Wilbur said. You'd never know when a fuse might blow as it did one night, resulting in the loss of 4,000 chickens.

There's a lot of history attached to the building that houses the hatchery. The building has housed a grocery store and barbershop and Wilbur says he can remember coming uptown to see the toys in the window around Christmas.

Wilbur is a little concerned about what he's going to do when he retires. He says he has some things he has to dispose of and the hatchery has been the home to a number of card players for years and Wilbur feels a responsibility to "keep them off the streets".

BILL TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF CORRECTIONAL HEALTH

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would establish an Office of Correctional Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), the United States is second only to Russia among industrialized nations in incarceration rates with nearly 2 million people in jail or prison. The fuel that feeds this prison population explosion is comprised of several components. Mandatory minimum and "three-strikes" sentencing laws have resulted in longer sentences and more frequent incarcerations. A look at the changing demographics in American prisons and jails sheds light on the challenges correction facilities face at the beginning of the 21st century.

According to DOJ, 57 percent of state prisoners and 45 percent of federal prisoners surveyed in 1997 said they had used drugs in the month before their offense. A whopping 83 percent of state prisoners and 73 percent of federal prisoners had used drugs at some time in the past. It is estimated that about three-quarters of all inmates can be characterized as being involving in alcohol or drug abuse in the time leading to their arrest.

In the first comprehensive report on mental illness in correctional facilities, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that seven percent of federal inmates and 16 percent of those in state prisons or local jails or on probation said they either had a mental condition or had stayed over night in a mental hospital unit or treatment program. The highest rate of mental illness was among white females in state prisons at 29 percent. For white females

age 24 or younger this level rose to almost 40 percent. When compared to other inmates, mentally ill inmates and probationers reported higher rates of prior physical and sexual abuse. According to BJS, nearly 6 in 10 mentally ill offenders reported they were under the influence of alcohol and drugs at the time of their current offense. Many people do not know that the Los Angeles City jail is now the largest mental institution in the United States, holding 3,300 seriously mentally ill inmates on any given night.

The increased incarceration rate of women also presents new health care challenges to correctional facilities. According to BJS, in 1998 an estimated 950,000 women were under custody, care or control of correctional agencies. Nearly 6 in 10 women in state prisons had experienced physical or sexual abuse in the past. This statistic, coupled with the reality that 7 in 10 women under correctional sanction have minor children, points to the acute need for counseling services. Women inmates utilize health care services at higher rates than men. Because of their need for reproductive health care, including sexually transmitted diseases, and the possibility of pregnancy either upon entry into the correction system or during, women's special health care needs must be addressed in a comprehensive fashion.

The health care needs of inmates have expanded as the incarcerated population has aged. As inmates grow old in prison they succumb to the same ailments which afflict the elderly in the outside world—diabetes, heart disease and stroke. These geriatric health care needs represent another challenge to correctional agencies in providing adequate care.

In 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention formed an ad hoc working group, the Cross Centers Correctional Work Group made up of health professionals from across CDC. The purpose of the group is to focus attention on the complex health needs of incarcerated men, women, and youth in the United States. I commend the work of this group and the fine efforts of CDC in addressing the very complex health issues associated with correctional facilities.

According to CDC, in 1994 AIDS diagnoses were almost six times more prevalent among the incarcerated population than among the general U.S. population. Further, inmates coming into correctional facilities are increasingly at risk for HIV infection through risk behaviors such as needle sharing and unprotected sex. Also, tuberculosis (TB) is another important public health issue in prisons and jails according to CDC. TB infection rates are substantially higher among inmates because conditions associated with TB (poverty, drug use, HIV infection, etc.) are more common in the incarcerated population than the general U.S. population.

Rates of infectious disease are known to be higher among inmates than in the general population and because most inmates are released after they've served their time, without treatment, these infected inmates threaten the public health of the community upon release.

All of these alarming statistics contribute to the need for the establishment of an Office of Correctional Health with HHS. Such an office would coordinate all correctional health programs within HHS; provide technical support to State and local correctional agencies on

correctional health; cooperate with other Federal agencies carrying out correctional health programs to ensure coordination; provide outreach to State directors of correctional health and providers; and facilitate the exchange of information regarding correctional health activities.

Mr. Speaker, with a growing diverse and medically complex population in America's prisons and jails, we must ensure that inmates are provided the health care they need, that staff members operate in a safe working environment, and as a result, public safety is enhanced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business at the White House, I was unable to record my vote on rollcall No. 154, raising a point of order against the consideration of H.R. 3709 as an unfunded mandate. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay"—against consideration of H.R. 3709.

CONGRATULATING THE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE NETWORK OF THE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Hospital Week, I honor accomplishments of the Community Healthcare Network. Earlier this week, the American Hospital Association presented its prestigious NOVA award to the Community Healthcare Network, which was established by Columbus Regional Healthcare System of Columbus, Georgia. This award recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health of their communities. I congratulate the dedicated health care workers of the Community Healthcare Network for achieving this important recognition.

The Community Healthcare Network—a collaboration of public and private entities serving 19 counties in west Georgia and east Alabama—exemplifies the dedication of health care workers, professionals, and volunteers who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors in need. Using the results of each county's baseline health status surveys, the Community Healthcare Network developed programs to meet each community's specific health needs. For example, primary health care centers were opened to serve children and adults in three rural counties. To increase accessibility, fees are based on the patients' abilities to pay.

The Community Care Mobile Unit travels throughout the service area providing primary care services to the homeless and indigent. Once a week, the unit visits locations selected by teens to provide teen health services. In other collaborative projects, the network has led the way to establish a children's dental

clinic, child health screenings at schools, and free transportation for prenatal visits.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Healthcare Network embodies the theme of this year's National Hospital Week—"Touching the Future with Care." I congratulate the Columbus Regional Healthcare System for its award-winning program, and I look forward to its future contributions to the communities of Georgia and Alabama.

HONORING THE LAMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Lamar University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. I am particularly proud of these recipients for two reasons, one—I am a Lamar University Graduate myself, and two—one of the recipients is my sister. This year's proud award winners are Mary Jo Lampson Ford, W.S. "Bud" Leonard and Joe V. Tortorice, Jr. The Alumni Award recipients are all people who have gone on to great success and have made outstanding commitments to their alma mater and communities.

Mary Jo Lampson Ford, my sister, became a quadriplegic after contracting polio when she was 14. Through therapy she regained some use of her arms and decided to go to college. Mary Jo earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences and art from Lamar State College of Technology in 1956.

When Mary Jo attended Lamar it was prior to the days of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the buildings were not accessible to wheelchairs. Mary Jo found the students and teachers accepting and helpful, often times carrying her up and down stairs and across campus because of the lack of accessibility. Mary Jo taught for seven years at South Park High School and went on to become a well known artist.

The second recipient, W.S. "Bud" Leonard, was an organizing member and officer of the LU Cardinal Club, Cardinal Hall of Honor Council and Friends of the Arts. Bud earned an associate degree in 1950 and a bachelor's degree in health education in 1953 as a member of Lamar's first four-year graduating class. He returned to earn a master's degree in speech in 1976.

Bud began 20 years of service to Lamar in 1975 as vice president of university relations and assistant chancellor for development, during which Lamar received almost \$45 million in donations. He also volunteered before and after his tenure, offering 25 years of support. Bud was awarded the Golden Cardinal for exceptional service to the alumni association in 1985.

Joe V. Tortorice, Jr. is the third recipient and earned a master's degree in business administration from Lamar in 1971. Joe developed the Jason's Deli chain of restaurants, which now has 80 locations. In 1976 he opened his first restaurant, with his family serving as its employees and managers. The family connection has remained throughout the years, extending from his mother and fa-

ther to his cousins. Joe and three of his cousins later became partners in Deli Management Inc., which operates in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Arizona, Tennessee, and Florida.

Mr. Speaker, the three recipients of the Lamar University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni awards are all exceptional people. As a graduate of Lamar, I found my time there exhilarating—a time of rising expectation and rising confidence in the future and in myself. Lamar gave me the opportunity to try new things and meet people from diverse backgrounds, expanding my horizons both intellectually and socially. I have great admiration for Lamar, and I strongly believe that what I learned there has been an important factor in what I've been able to do since, and I know it was an important factor in the award recipients' accomplishments. I offer my congratulations to Mary Jo Lampson Ford, W.S. "Bud" Leonard and Joe V. Tortorice, Jr. and wish them continued success.

COMMENDING INDIANA TEACHERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, a week set aside for elected leaders, parents, administrators, and students to express their appreciation for teachers who are making a difference. Every American can think of a special teacher who was an inspiration in their lives. For me, that teacher was Mrs. Daphne Richards.

I was always a pretty good student in school, except for one thing. Early on, I was a slow reader. Then in sixth grade, my teacher, Mrs. Richards, decided that she was going to turn me into a reader. She introduced me to comic books—now she didn't give me Spiderman or Superman, but classic comic books—comic-book versions of classic stories like MacBeth and Last of the Mohicans. And then I wanted to read the real versions—I was hooked! I've loved reading ever since. That great teacher, Mrs. Richards, made a difference in my life—she made me a reader.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of meeting great teachers across my home state of Indiana. Some of these teachers, like Mrs. Richards, teach children. Others, like those I have met at Ball State University, teach adults. Some are moms and dads teaching their kids at home. Some teach in public schools, others in private institutions. Some coach basketball. And some give the gift of music or art. Although they are different in many ways, good teachers have this in common: They are professionals devoted to excellence, possessing talent, patience, fortitude, and a personal love of learning and of learners.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to personally honor several teachers in Indiana with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. Nominated by a principal, parent, or colleague to receive this honor, these teachers are admired and respected by those closest to them. They are dedicated, hard

working, and caring professionals who are doing a great service to our children, our communities, and our state.

Although they represent a small cross section of teachers who are making a difference in the lives of Hoosiers, I would like to list their names for the record. Teachers receiving a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for service to the community are as follows:

Ms. Laura Martin teaches physical education and health at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Valparaiso, Indiana. She has been teaching for 20 years. Also at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Ms. Janice Stanier has been teaching 27 and a half years. She teaches English. Having taught for 33 years, Mr. David Watson teaches technology at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. They each provide strong, positive leadership at this school where they have spent seventy of their combined eighty years of service to young people.

At Alain LeRoy Locke Elementary School in Gary, Indiana, Mr. Alonzo Daniels teaches fifth grade and coaches basketball. As a coach, Mr. Daniels has led Alain LeRoy Locke Elementary School to two important championships. He is known for bringing out the best in his students on the court and in the classroom. By building up his students with praise and encouragement, they are able to go far beyond expectations.

Mr. Al Remaly teaches Global Studies at Northwestern Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana where he puts in countless hours of hard work and dedication. He is innovative with technology and a strong advocate for our country and our flag. Considered an excellent role model, Mr. Remaly has earned the respect and appreciation of students and faculty.

Mr. Terry Hughes teaches English, U.S. history, and Gifted and Talented at the Signature Learning Center in Evansville, Indiana. He is a hard working teacher whose expertise in the classroom is a blessing to the school. This outstanding educator is an example of dedication, expertise, and commitment to young people.

In rural Indiana, Mr. Ken Snow teaches science at Boone Grove High School in Valparaiso where he is an inspiration to peers and students. Not only does he teach science, Mr. Snow develops curriculum, spearheads the school's science fair, is a co-sponsor of the National Honor Society, and oversees other activities. Because of his personal attention to students, he is known as someone who gives of himself so that student leave school with more than an education.

A reading specialist at the Whitney Center in Richmond, Indiana, Ms. Carolyn Gibb has taught children who have had great difficulties learning to read. Children come from neighboring states to work with Ms. Gibb. Providing the gift of reading through scientifically-based reading instruction, Ms. Gibb has given hope to so many frustrated children and parents.

At Scott Elementary School in Evansville, Indiana, Ms. Patricia Foster teaches second grade. Known for her wit, wisdom and gentleness, Ms. Foster truly understands the needs of her children. Ms. Janie Thomas, the kindergarten teacher at Scott Elementary, is also a greatly admired teacher. Her creative approach makes children excited to return to school each day.

Ms. Janet Bulcher is a teacher at Stanley Hall Enrichment Center in Evansville, Indiana

and other sites where she is an itinerant special education teacher. Known for her honesty, energy, and insight, Ms. Bulcher is deeply dedicated to the welfare of her students and their education. Ms. Bulcher works hard to improve the system of education, demonstrating to fellow adults how to work together to help children.

At Ball State University in my home town of Muncie, Indiana, Dr. Neil R. Schmottlach is the John and Janice Fisher Distinguished Professor of Wellness and Gerontology and the Director of the Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology. Dr. Schmottlach promotes wellness education to thousands of kindergarten to Higher Education learners and educators. Adept at using technology, he provides learners with a rich learning environment.

Ms. Victoria Brush is a teacher and leader at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Completing 52 years of teaching business courses, she has seen technology advance from old manual typewriters, to electric typewriters, to computers. Ms. Brush is also Roncalli High School's number one cheerleader who enthusiastically attends a majority of the games. According to those who know her, she is a truly humble, sincere person.

In Franklin, Indiana, Ms. Becki Biberdorf is a homeschool teacher. Deeply dedicated to her sons, she spends countless hours planning trips, developing lesson plans, and searching out exciting things to teach. She greets the awesome responsibility of teaching her own children, molding their character, and setting them on life's path with grace and wisdom.

Retired teacher Mr. Gene Aurand taught English at Reitz Francis Joseph High School in Evansville, Indiana. He also served on various legislative committees for the Evansville Teachers Association and has been active with the town board in Newburgh, Indiana. Having dedicated his life to teaching, he has earned the respect of his peers and students.

Mr. Speaker, these caring and talented teachers are of immeasurable worth to Indiana. They serve day in and day out, teaching our children and helping them grow to adulthood. They are the pride of our community and essential to our quality of life. In the words of Historian Henry Brooks Adams "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY BEING UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I submit for the RECORD a statement that I issued yesterday concerning the plight of the 13 Jews in Iran who have unjustly been imprisoned on unfounded charges of spying for the State of Israel. I am pleased that this statement was read yesterday at a rally in support of the imprisoned Iranian Jews that was held at the Jewish Community Center in Tenafly, New Jersey. I am encouraged that the rally, which was sponsored by the UJA Federation of Bergen County & North Hudson, the Rabbinical

Council of Bergen County, the North Jersey Board of Rabbis, the JCC on the Palisades and the YJCC of Bergen County, served to raise the public's awareness of the plight of the 13 imprisoned Iranian Jews.

May 10, 2000.

DEAR FRIENDS: I want to express my solidarity with each and every person who has gathered at the JCC tonight to show their support for the "Iran 13." Your presence at this community meeting sends a clear message to the political leaders of Iran that the eyes of the American people are strongly focused on the plight of Jews who are being imprisoned unjustly in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Just as importantly, tonight you are also sending a message to the Iran 13 that they have not been forgotten.

I regret that Congressional business requires me to be in Washington tonight, but I do want to share with you my full support to the leaders and members of the UJA Federation of Bergen County & North Hudson, the Rabbinical Council of Bergen County, the North Jersey Board of Rabbis, the JCC on the Palisades and the YJCC of Bergen County for sponsoring and arranging this community-wide gathering.

When fanatics within the Iranian Government first moved last year to arrest Jews living in the southern Fars province of Iran, on trumped up charges of spying for the "Zionist regime," I promptly wrote to the President of Iran, Mohammed Khatami, to demand that they immediately be released. Not surprisingly, to this day, I have yet to receive the courtesy of a reply to my letter. And truthfully, I do not expect the Iranian authorities to respond to my letter, because that would force them to put on paper a case that is based solely on anti-Israel rhetoric and bolstered by lies, mistruths and fabrications.

More recently, I have cosponsored legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 128, that calls on the Clinton Administration to condemn the arrest of members of Iran's Jewish minority and urges their immediate release. The bill also calls on all nations that have relations with Iran to condemn the treatment of religious minorities in Iran and to call for the release of all prisoners, including the Iran 13, who are being held in prison solely on the basis of their religious beliefs.

Today, my fear for the physical safety of the Iran 13 is very real and predicated on the fact that five Jews have been executed by the Iranian government in the past five years without ever having been tried. These executions help explain why over half of the Jews in Iran have fled since 1979, many of them leaving to escape the state sponsored religious persecution orchestrated by supporters of the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

I urge each and every person present tonight to be vigilant and continue your demand that the Government of Iran immediately release the Iran 13. The fact is, our voices can be heard by the Jewish community in Iran and we owe that beleaguered community no less than to work diligently and tirelessly for the freedom of those innocent people.

Again, I commend those in attendance tonight. I commend the organizers of this community meeting and I commend those public officials and members of the clergy who this evening have come forward to shine the public's spotlight on a terrible injustice occurring within Iran.

I look forward to working with all of you in the days ahead to seek the immediate release of the Iran 13.

Sincerely,

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN,

Member of Congress.

REGARDING SECTION 110 OF THE
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM
AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY
ACT OF 1996

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am in support of repealing Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. While I certainly support the goal of enhanced immigration enforcement through better record-keeping at our nation's borders, implementing Section 110 prior to the establishment of a speedy automated entry-exit system will cause serious problems on the borders. Specifically, mandatory documentation will create massive traffic delays that would clog both the Northern and Southern borders, and obstruct trade and tourism nationwide.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service does not have the technology in place to carry out the entry-exit system required by Section 110 without unacceptable delays at all border crossings. As a representative from the State of Washington, my constituents will be adversely affected by the implementation of Section 110. In 1999, Washington State alone exported close to \$3 billion worth of goods to Canada. Applying Section 110 without adequate technology in place will create lines of waiting vehicles stretching several miles that would severely cripple trade, travel, and tourism between Washington State and Canada.

Likewise, in 1999, Washington State had close to 5.5 million border crossings at its 5 border stations. Of this, over 300,000 crossings were at the border station in Oroville, Washington, which is in my district. Oroville is a relatively small community in Central Washington that is not equipped to handle the extensive traffic jams that would be caused by Section 110. The City of Oroville recently adopted Resolution 391, and I submit the resolution to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In the Resolution, the City of Oroville requests that Congress delay the implementation of Section 110 until the United States Attorney General has addressed and resolved the issues and concerns relating to implementation.

Until technologies are developed to allow for extensive record-keeping at our border stations while ensuring timely border crossings, it is simply unreasonable to try and implement Section 110.

RESOLUTION No. 391

A resolution to urge the United States Congress ("Congress") to repeal or delay the implementation of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 ("Act").

Whereas, Section 110 of the Act requires the establishment of an automated entry-exit control system at all airports, seaports and land border crossings to "collect a record of departure for every alien departing the United States and match the records of departure with the record of the Alien's arrival in the United States";

Whereas, implementation of Section 110 will add to the congestion at international crossings and increase the size and amount of delays and holdups at border crossings;

Whereas, delays and holdups at the border crossings will limit the potential for indus-

try expansion and will have negative national and international economic impacts on efficiency, service and jobs;

Whereas, trade and tourism between the United States and its North American neighbors has grown considerably since the enactment of NAFTA;

Whereas, trade and tourism are becoming an increasingly important sector of both the local border economies and the national economy;

Whereas, the World Travel and Tourism Council predicts that travel and tourism will ultimately account for 100 million jobs in this decade;

Whereas, through steady, incremental efforts, current alien arrival and departure data collection and sharing systems at ports of entry may be improved in ways that will advance important national objectives including expanded trade, travel and tourism, enhanced national security and law enforcement;

Whereas, future advances in data collection technology will enable federal, state and local governments and the private sector to increase the flow of goods and persons across our national borders.

Whereas, the appropriate agencies within the Administration, through advances in technology over time, may be able to recommend to Congress how to improve alien arrival and departure data collection and sharing systems at land and sea ports of entry in ways that advance important national objectives, including expanded trade, travel and tourism, enhanced national security and law enforcement;

Whereas, any such recommendations from the appropriate agencies should involve cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors including federal, state and local governments to ensure appropriate realization of these objectives;

Whereas, the technology to collect the data required by Section 110 of the Act is not yet commercially feasible;

Whereas, it is of critical importance that the data collection system created pursuant to Section 110 of the Act not interfere with the ebb and flow of goods and persons across our national borders.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of the City of Oroville, That that City of Oroville urges the United States Congress to delay implementation of Section 110 of the illegal immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 until the United States Attorney General has addressed and resolved the issues and concerns of this resolution in coordination with the private sector and state and local governments.

Passed this 2nd day of May, 2000.

DAVID K. REYNOLDS, Mayor.

KATHY M. JONES, Clerk-Treasurer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CEN-
TENNIAL ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act. I am joined in this important effort by the distinguished chairman of the House Resources Committee, DON YOUNG, the ranking Democratic member of the Committee, GEORGE MILLER, the ranking Democratic subcommittee member, ENI

FALEOMAVAEGA, the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL, and our colleague, DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

Since becoming chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, I have held many hearings on the operation, maintenance, and management of our nation's National Wildlife Refuge System. This unique system of Federal lands provides essential habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 258 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The first wildlife refuge was created at Pelican Island, FL, in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Today the System has 521 refuges and 38 wetland management districts, which are located in all 50 States and the 9 Commonwealths, Territories, and island possessions. These units range in size from the smallest of less than one acre, the Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota, to the largest of 19.3 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Money for refuge land acquisition primarily comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

During the past 5 years, my subcommittee has taken a leadership role in approving legislation to improve our National Wildlife Refuge System. Without question, the most important change was the enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. This landmark Act, P.L. 105-57, was sponsored by Chairman DON YOUNG and, for the first time, it created a comprehensive "organic law" governing the management of the world's largest and most diverse network of lands devoted to fish and wildlife. This historic measure also created a statutory shield to ensure that hunting and fishing and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation will continue within the Refuge System, and it facilitates these traditional activities where compatible with conservation.

The second improvement, which I was honored to sponsor, was the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act. This legislation will improve the infrastructure of the Refuge System by encouraging volunteer activities. In 1999, over 28,000 individuals volunteered more than 1.3 million hours, which was worth more than \$11 million in services. These services included staffing visitors centers, conducting hunter safety classes, landscaping, and operating heavy equipment. My bill, which was signed into law on October 5, 1998, will encourage additional volunteers by establishing up to 20 pilot projects for the purpose of hiring full-time volunteer coordinators. It also made it easier for interested individuals and groups to donate money or services to a particular refuge.

Finally, during the past 4 years, a bipartisan group of Members, including myself, DON YOUNG, GEORGE MILLER, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, JOHN DINGELL, and others have vigorously lobbied the House Appropriations Committee to increase funding to reduce the Refuge System's operations and maintenance backlog. Together with the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), we were successful in persuading our Appropriations colleagues to increase funding for this account by \$86 million, which is a down payment on the maintenance backlog. While these increases were significant, there is

much work to be done to reach the goal of having a fully operational Refuge System by 2003.

The legislation I am introducing today recognizes the vital importance of the Refuge System and the fact that the System will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 3 years. Under the terms of this bill, a Commission will be established to promote awareness of the System; develop a long-term plan to meet the priority operations, maintenance and construction needs of the System; and to improve public use programs and facilities.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission would be composed of 11 voting members, including the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, the chairman and ranking minority members of the House Resources and Senate Environment and Public Works Committees, plus the congressional members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, would serve as ex officio members.

The Commission would be charged with the responsibility for preparing a plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the System, coordinating activities to celebrate that event, and hosting a conference on the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Commission would issue annual reports and would terminate no later than September 30, 2004.

Finally, this bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and submit to the Congress a long-term plan to address priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that my subcommittee will conduct a hearing on this legislation in the near future. The American people deserve the finest Refuge System in the world. This bill is an appropriate next step in our efforts to ensure that the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, one of our Nation's greatest conservationists, will live on in the years ahead.

Ahead, I want to thank my distinguished colleagues for joining with me in this endeavor, and I urge enthusiastic support for the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ELIZABETH ROSE CARROLL—CELEBRATING THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I honor a very talented young lady from my congressional district, Elizabeth Rose Carroll of Springdale High School. Elizabeth is the top winner of the 2000 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery.

Elizabeth's pen and ink entitled "Petals in the Past" depicting a veiled woman of a bygone era holding a bouquet, was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I know that, with her obvious talent, many successes await Elizabeth.

I look forward to seeing "Petals in the Past" displayed along with the artwork of the other competition winners from across the country,

and I am pleased to be associated with Elizabeth's artistic talents.

Congratulations, Elizabeth. I wish you the very best of luck in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce this House Concurrent Resolution which expresses the sense of Congress regarding Vietnamese-Americans and others who seek to improve social and political conditions in Vietnam.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist forces. The current Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues under an oppressive Communist regime that limits and denies its citizens fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech, the right to religious worship, and the right to associate with others who do not agree with the government. During the past 25 years, many people, including Vietnamese-Americans have participated in peaceful protests, freedom rallies, candlelight vigils, hunger strikes, and other demonstrations to bring awareness and attention to the social and political situation in Vietnam.

It is important that we recognize the work of Vietnamese-Americans and others who labor continuously to bring attention to the injustices and human rights conditions in Vietnam. In addition, we must never forget those who risked and gave the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—in defending and attempting to bring freedom and democracy to Vietnam.

Traditionally, the former Republic of South Vietnam and presently in Vietnamese-American communities all across America, June 19 represents a day to commemorate and honor both fallen and living heroes who have dedicated or are continuing to dedicate their lives to bringing international attention to the human rights situation in Vietnam. The Vietnamese-American community may be relatively young, but it has a consistent record of bringing issues such as human rights abuses, political and religious persecution, and labor exploitations committed in Vietnam, to the attention of the American public.

Many of my own constituents have shared with me the horrors and their own personal stories of how they and their families have endured living under Vietnam's Communist regime without fundamental human rights. While many of them were lucky enough to escape from Vietnam, many more people have not been as fortunate.

It is my strongest hope that the citizens of Vietnam will one day be free: free to elect their own leaders and government, free to worship as they please, free to speak and print their own opinions without fear of persecution or harassment, and simply free to live their lives without government intrusion. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this

important resolution because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to Vietnamese-Americans and others whose work keeps the spirit of freedom alive for those still living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MYRA (CASIMIRA) LENARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I have a heavy heart. It is in great sadness that I honor my dear friend, Myra (Casimira) Lenard, who fought her courageous and long bout with grave illness so valiantly. On Monday afternoon, May 1, Myra passed from this life after having served as the long time Executive Director of the Washington Office of the Polish American Congress. For nearly 20 years, she became the much revered force representing Polish Americans here in our Nation's Capital. Her fortitude was to be admired as she guided the Congress through the tumultuous times of Solidarity and Martial Law. What a gift that she lived to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, and then saw the fulfillment of a life-long quest as Poland left the Warsaw Pact and became a member of NATO. She may be best remembered, though, for leading the charge to convert proceeds of the Polish American Enterprise Fund into the Polish American Freedom Foundation. It was Myra who worked tirelessly with the White House and Members of Congress ensuring that voices of Polish Americans in our country would be heard. It was Myra who sacrificed so much to fight for those unable to do it themselves.

Born in Poland, she emigrated to the United States as a small child, where she spent many years involved in Chicago's Polonian organizations. There she met the love of her life, Casimir I. Lenard, whom she married and then moved with him to Washington, DC in 1962. Once here, she immediately began volunteering her time to needy, worthy causes. Her talents were recognized as she ultimately achieved a leadership position at the Polish American Congress. Myra was the worthy recipient of numerous awards, including the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit—the highest civilian award granted by Poland, presented by Polish Foreign Minister Wladslaw Bartoszewski in 1995. At a meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Polish National Alliance in December 1998, she and her husband were enrolled in the PNA's Legion of Merit. The list of her accomplishments cannot fully capture the fullness of this dynamic, gracious, dedicated and politically brilliant woman. Truly she was a freedom-lover.

Mr. Speaker, may we gain some small comfort in knowing the spirit and fire that Myra carried through her life that helped bring freedom to her first homeland inspired thousands who have been touched with her light and love. May peace bless her always. And may the work to which she dedicated her life—with family and career—stand as a living testament to this regal and loving woman. America is fortunate indeed that she chose this nation as her permanent homeland.

THE E-COMMERCE ENHANCEMENT
ACT OF 2000**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Electronic Enhancement Act of 2000, a bill that will identify the continuous challenges facing small and medium-sized businesses and will assist them in overcoming these obstacles when they enter the world of e-commerce. I developed this legislation after recently hosting an E-Commerce Forum in my District, which was designed to ensure that small and medium-sized businesses have access to the booming e-commerce industry. With more than 300 business people in attendance, it was obvious to me that while there is great interest from small and medium-sized businesses for going online, these businesses face a number of challenges as they enter the world of e-commerce.

Specifically, this bill will establish an outside Advisory Panel made up of representatives from the Technology Administration, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Small Business Administration, the Modernization Forum, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, along with other relevant parties, to determine the needs of small and medium-sized businesses. Based on the assessment of the Advisory Panel the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) will establish a pilot program for assisting small and medium-sized businesses in e-commerce. Competitive grants would be awarded to existing MEP centers that submitted e-commerce assistance proposals. The e-commerce needs of businesses will vary between regions of the country and along industry lines. Therefore, the needs of the community can be best served by relying upon the local expertise of current MEP centers rather than establish a national "one size fits all" program.

E-commerce is a facet of our economy that will enable numerous businesses to experience strong growth. Last year, e-commerce was a 100 billion dollar a year industry. In the next three years that number is expected to be 3 trillion dollars—a full 1/3 of our current 9 trillion dollar economy. The power of the Internet is the power to overcome the social, geographic and economic disparities that have traditionally stifled growth for all types of businesses. No longer is the small manufacturer in Michigan limited to buying his raw materials from one or two distributors or supplying his product to only nearby clients. Such business to business e-commerce will increase the efficiency of supply chains and even allow manufacturers to find new markets online. The same situation applies to the retailer. Up until a few years ago, the Main Street shop owner was limited to selling her goods to walk-in traffic. With the advent of online commerce, any retailer can sell to anyone in the United States and to almost anyone in the world.

These are the kinds of advantages that e-commerce can bring to business owners across the country. We must be sure that we do not leave any business behind, especially America's small and medium-sized businesses who are the backbone of our economy and the realization of the American dream for so

many. This legislation will allow small and medium-sized businesses to overcome the hurdles they face as they enter the e-commerce arena.

I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in supporting this important legislation.

INTERNET NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3709) to make permanent the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act as it applies to new, multiple, and discriminatory taxes on the Internet.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express concerns about HR 3709, the Internet Nondiscrimination Act, a bill which extends the moratorium contained in The Internet Tax Freedom Act of 1998 for five additional years until 2006.

As a former Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Missouri state house and former president of National Council of State Legislators (NCSL), I believe we need to address this issue with an eye toward creating a win-win situation for our states and localities, our mom and pop retailers on Main Street and the technology sector. I am not convinced that this bill has balanced all interests in a manner which achieves that goal.

I want electronic commerce to prosper and I support eliminating discriminatory taxes on this type of commerce. However, I also support finding a way to ensure Main Street businesses and state and local governments are not penalized by competitive advantages enjoyed by internet commerce companies. We need a level playing field and I am committed to finding one.

Not leveling the playing field could result in billions of dollars in lost revenue to states. By 2003 states will lose a total of approximately \$20.1 billion in revenue if businesses are not required to collect the use taxes that are owed by purchases on electronic commerce. My state of Missouri will lose a projected \$395 million—how will Missouri make up that revenue stream to ensure adequate funds for public education, critical infrastructure needs and other important state programs?

The piecemeal approach in HR 3709 prevents comprehensive solutions to the subject of taxes on the Internet. The existing moratorium does not expire until October 21, 2001. Merely extending the moratorium does not address the main issue of providing a level playing field for sales tax collection. In the coming 17 months which remain in the existing moratorium, we must consider comprehensive solutions.

Without a measured and thoughtful approach to addressing this complex issue we jeopardize the basic services which our constituents rely upon from our states and localities. We must sustain growth of the Internet and e-commerce with an appropriate revenue collecting structure built upon a foundation of fairness and equity to Main Street merchants.

MORE ANTI-CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES
IN INDIA**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to read some recent articles showing that the repression of Christians in India continues. The RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, has apparently published a booklet on how to besmirch Christians.

According to an article in the May 5 issue of India Abroad, the RSS has published a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. It cites a Hindustan Times report that says the booklet, entitled "Save Hindus—Attacks and Laws," contains "guidelines for framing charges, false as well as genuine, against minorities." The booklet has been in circulation for three months, according to the article.

If India cannot learn religious tolerance, it is not deserving of the support of the free countries of the world. It is time to declare India a violator of religious liberty and other human rights until the situation improves. India should allow Amnesty International into Punjab and other troubled states to conduct an independent human-rights investigation. This has not happened since 1978. What is "the world's largest democracy" hiding? India should also hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other states seeking their freedom from India.

I would like to introduce the article from India Abroad that I mentioned earlier into the RECORD for the information of the House and the public.

[From India Abroad, May 12, 2000]

ATTACK ON CHRISTIANS

New Delhi—A group of Christians who were distributing copies of the Bible and other evangelical literature in Vivekanandnagar, Ahmedabad, were reportedly attacked by activists of the right-wing Bajrang Dal on May 5.

The Christians were attacked with lathis (canes) and sharp-edged weapons, the reports said, adding that three persons were injured in the incident.

Samson C. Christian, executive member of the All India Christian Council, alleged that the attack was pre-planned as the Bajrang Dal was aware that members of the Operation Mobilization Association of Christians (OMAC) had been preaching in the area.

In a related development, reports stated that the Sangh Parivar, comprising Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and its affiliate organizations, have brought out a booklet in Gujarat, containing guidelines on how to implicate minorities in court cases, The Hindustan Times reported.

The 12-page booklet, titled "Hinduno Bachao—akraman ane kayedo" (Save Hindus—attacks and laws), contains guidelines for framing charges, false as well as genuine, against minorities under existing laws, the report said, adding that the booklet has been in circulation for the past three months.